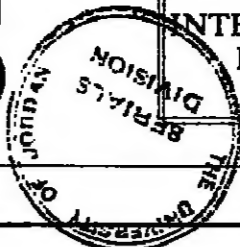


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THE TIMES



INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1992

50p



REBORN ON THE WIND

Neil Lyndon dons oilies, cleats sheets and generally does well for a landlubber all at sea
Weekend Times Page 1



BACK FROM THE BRINK

The chilling story of how Chris Bonnington's luck nearly ran out in the Himalayas
Saturday Review Page 8



LOST ON THE STREETS

Jah Bones and other community leaders have no doubt that inner city violence is linked to poverty
Saturday Review Page 12



WELL FOUND IN FRANCE

A Times offer opens the door to some of the best hospitality in the world at down to earth prices
Weekend Times Page 7

Confusion over British drug testing

Banned lifters fight to return to Olympics

FROM JOHN GOODBODY IN BARCELONA

IN A dramatic about-turn it was revealed last night that the two British weightlifters sent home from Barcelona in disgrace may return to the Olympics to compete.

The British camp at the Olympics was awash with rumours about what had gone wrong with the testing procedure carried out on Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies, but the British Olympic Association in Barcelona refused to comment.

Davies and Saxton were tested out of competition on July 10 and 11 respectively, and results released last Tuesday found traces of a banned anabolic and stimulant contained in the drug Clenbuterol. The weightlifters are now fighting to return to compete in the Games.

Saxton, speaking from his home in Cowley, Oxford, said he had instructed solicitors and would appeal. "I am innocent," he said, "I have done nothing wrong."

There were initial reports yesterday that Clenbuterol, which both men admitted taking, was not included on the International Olympic Committee's list of banned substances. Later, after the Sports Council confirmed that the substance was covered by the IOC list, it was suggested that the tests carried out by the King's College

laboratory, Chelsea, may not have adhered to the international committee's procedural guidelines.

Although there were rumours that the two sportsmen would be allowed back to compete tomorrow and on Monday, a spokeswoman for the BOA said that no decision was likely until today because of the complexity of the situation. Even if they return to Barcelona in time to compete, psychologically the episode is likely to have caused them a great setback. Saxton had been due to take part in the 100 kilogram competition tomorrow while Davies was to participate in the 110 kilogram event on Monday.

The BOA and the Sports Council held a series of meetings last night to consider whether the drug testing carried out on Saxton and Davies had followed the protocol. Robert Watson, the BOA treasurer and legal adviser, also met the IOC medical commission to discuss the case.

Professor Arnold Beckett, a British member of the medical commission who was not involved in the original decision to suspend the lifters, has raised doubts on the IOC's interpretation of the guidelines for out of competition testing. He has questioned whether in this case there were tests for the drug as both a stimulant and as an anabolic agent.

Professor Beckett, who used to run the British drug control centre, believes that if there tests were not carried out for both stimulants and anabolic agents the positive result should not have been declared. It is well-known that Professor Beckett and Dr David Cowan, his successor at the British drug testing laboratory, have been frequently involved in scientific disputes.

Dick Palmer, the secretary of the British Olympic Association, said last night that they would be getting formal guidance from the IOC. However, Prince Alexandre de Merode, the chairman of the IOC medical commission, said that he believed that the BOA decision was correct.

Saxton said that he had taken Clenbuterol to relieve his asthma. The drug, which is a steroid-based stimulant is not licensed for use in Britain, but it is available in Germany for the treatment of asthma. Saxton said that he had given some to Davies after he had complained of a "tight" chest.

Tamas Ajan, the general secretary of the International Weightlifting Federation, said yesterday that separate tests were carried out in Barcelona on the two weightlifters a few days before the Games started. He said that both sets of tests had proved negative.

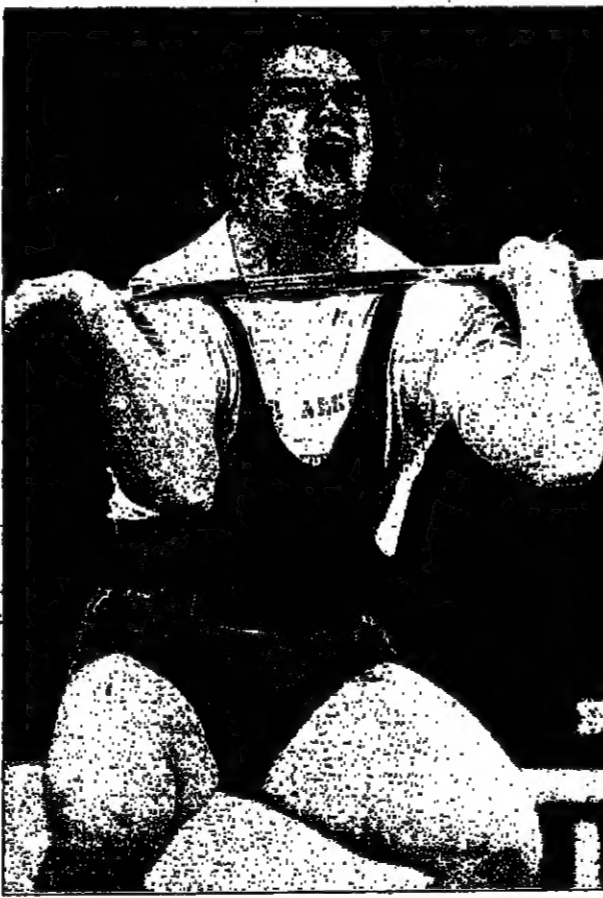
The latest development will cast a shadow over international efforts to clamp down on drug-taking in sport, a move that has already been undermined by the test on Katrin Krabbe, the German runner, whose positive drug test results were overturned earlier this year. The International Amateur Athletic Federation found that the testing protocol had not been observed.

The timing of the announcement of the test results on Saxton, Davies and Jason Livingston, the British sprinter, had already provoked anger because the tests were carried out nearly three weeks before the three men arrived in Barcelona. Livingston's suspension has not been altered by yesterday's development.

Simon Barnes, page 2
 Greatest show, page 10
 Olympic reports, pages 26, 27, 30



Davies: given Clenbuterol by Saxton, who used it to relieve his own asthma, after he complained of a tight chest



Saxton: said he had drug cleared by a doctor

Mortgage trap victims win right to sell homes at a loss

BY RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of homebuyers caught in the mortgage trap of owing more than their house is worth may now be able to sell up in defiance of their lenders, after a test case in the Court of Appeal.

The case concerned a couple who wanted to sell their home for nearly £70,000 less than their mortgage debt to avoid building up further arrears. They were stopped by their lenders, who insisted they wait until the market improved. But the appeal court has ruled that lenders should not be allowed to speculate at borrowers' expense and the couple should have the right to sell.

The ruling could have implications for more than a million people whose mortgages are higher than the value of their properties and 305,000 borrowers who are more than six months in arrears.

There have been a number of complaints from families in this position to the building society ombudsmen. In some cases, borrowers were barred selling as arrears mounted, but after their homes were repossessed, the lenders sold at a lower price and then claimed on their mortgage indemnity insurance. Some lenders can make an insurance claim only by repossessing the properties.

Ron Armstrong, head of legal services from the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said: "This goes some way to open the door for borrowers in some circumstances to get these orders. But the court emphasised that the facts in this case were rather special and it did not apply generally."

Nobody should assume they would get an order," the Vice Chancellor Sir Donald Nicholls, said. But in March last year — when the mortgage and arrears had risen to £358,587 — Mr Palk found a buyer at £283,000. He wanted to go ahead to stop interest accruing on most of the debt, but Mortgage Services refused to let him sell. They won a possession order so they could let the property on a

Continued on page 14, col 5
 Weekend money, page 19

Leonard Cheshire dies at 74

BY A STAFF REPORTER

LORD Cheshire, Britain's most decorated war pilot, died yesterday from motor neurone disease. He was 74.

As a bomber pilot, he took part in 100 missions, witnessing the bombing of Nagasaki in 1945, and was awarded the Victoria Cross. He later set up the Cheshire Foundation Homes, which provided care for the disabled in 45 countries.

Leonard Cheshire was introduced to the Lords last year, and his last major public appearance came last month when the Queen Mother unveiled the statue of Arthur "Bomber" Harris, head of Bomber Command during the second world war.

He is survived by his wife, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, who founded the Sue Ryder Foundation for the sick and disabled.

Tributes to hero, page 2

Channel 4 fined for protecting source

BY RICHARD FORD AND MELINDA WITTSTOCK

CHANNEL 4 and Box Productions were fined £75,000 for contempt of court yesterday after refusing to reveal the identity of an informant who alleged widespread collusion between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and loyalist assassination squads. Lord Justice Woolf accused both companies of collaborating in murder.

Michael Grade, Channel 4's chief executive, said that the ruling had set back the cause of investigative journalism and had made reporting on Northern Ireland "a no-go

area". He welcomed the judge's refusal to sequester Channel 4's assets, as had been requested by the Director of Public Prosecutions. Neither company will face further punishment for continued refusal to name the source.

The documentary that quoted the informant, *The Committee*, alleged that an organisation of 60 people plotted and carried out 20 sectarian killings in a two-year period. The informant, who admitted taking part in planning the murders, was identified only as Source A.

Lord Justice Woolf urged both companies to reconsider their refusal to identify him. "The situation here is that Source A, on his own admission, was a party to serial murders. If they do not provide his identity, then Channel 4 and Box Productions could be collaborating in the continuing of the killings which are unfortunately still taking place."

He said the court accepted that Channel 4 and Box faced a genuine dilemma of revealing the source of their information or flouting the law, but it was a dilemma of their own making. He recognised that the life of Source A could be at risk, but said the companies should have realised that there were some circumstances in which they were legally bound to break a promise not to reveal a source. Unqualified assurances should never be given.

Both companies should have appreciated that an investigation, and possibly Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 11

Loch Ness survey picks up echoes of a myth

BY KERRY GILL



SCIENTISTS surveying Loch Ness have reported picking up signals from an unidentified object somewhere below the surface. Sonar equipment normally used for tracking submarines picked up the signal for two minutes before the object disappeared. The scientists were unable to determine whether it was moving.

The leaders of Project Urquhart, which has just completed the first three weeks of surveying, made the discovery about 1.5km south of Foyers at 7.04pm on Tuesday as their ship, *Simrad*, was sailing southwest down the loch. Nicholas Wicheil, the broadcaster and chairman of the project, said that the team had no idea what the object was, as its appearance had been too brief to assess its size. It was, however, the largest recorded in the middle of Loch Ness. "May I just emphasise, re-emphasise

and emphasise yet again that neither *Simrad* nor Project Urquhart are going to speculate about what may have been the cause of this contact," Mr Wicheil said. "Even sonar of the sophistication of *Simrad*'s is susceptible to spurious echoes."

Mr Wicheil, speaking at Drumnadrochit, home of the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre, said: "The sonar tracking mechanism locked onto the object automatically and held it for approximately two minutes." He said the sonar operator was highly experienced. Ronald Bremner, founder of the exhibition centre, gave voice to the general buzz of excitement: "You can't get away from the fact that something did happen in this search."

No one, of course, used the "M" word. This is, after all, a Serious Scientific Survey. It is, however, reluctantly contributing to the mythology of the loch. The survey has turned up another mys-

tery. Robert Manson, of *Simrad*, the Sonar manufacturing company supporting the operation, said that a long line of "dots" had been identified on the loch bed at a depth of about 200 metres, approximately 60 metres apart. The dots were certainly man-made and ran most of the loch's length. What they were and how they got there is not clear.

One minor mystery, at least, has been cleared up. Legend had it that the monster sought refuge in underwater caves after being banished to Loch Ness by St Columba. Although only about 5 per cent of between six and eight million depth recordings taken by *Simrad* have been evaluated — indicating a maximum depth of around 750ft — the team has established that there are no caves and that the sides of the loch, which contains a greater volume of water than all the lakes and reservoirs in England and Wales put together, are almost perpendicular.

INDEX	
Births, marriages, deaths	12
Crossword	14
Letters	11
Weekend Money	19-21
Sport	24-30
WEEKEND TIMES	
What's On	2
Entertainment	3
Out of Town	4
Arts	5
Food and Drink	6-7
Getting Away	8-9
Property	10, 11
Personal/Concise Crossword	12
TV & radio	13, 14



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Channel 4 verdict's repercussions

'Nail in the coffin of probing journalism'

BY MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE High Court's ruling on Channel 4's refusal to name the person who supplied information for the documentary *The Committee* was being interpreted by broadcasters and human rights organisations last night as "the last nail in the coffin" for investigative reporting on Ulster and police corruption.

TV collaborated in murder, says judge

Continued from page 1

prosecutions, would have resulted from the broadcast of the programme. The security forces would want to identify Source A so that they could either "eradicate a canker" in the RUC's midst or show that the force had been slandered. Mr Justice Pill, sitting with Lord Justice Woolf in the High Court, added that, if Source A was not telling the truth, the allegations should have been "exposed for the dangerous and pernicious falsehoods that they are".

Sean McPhilemy, managing director of Box, said: "We now know the costs a journalist has to pay to expose a public scandal. If we had not given an undertaking to protect our source, no one would ever know about the RUC and the death squads. Instead of punishing the messenger, the government would do well to listen to the message and hold a full public enquiry."

John Birt, the deputy director-general of the BBC, said last night that the corpora-

land, or any controversial matter of public concern, will now face the prospect of being forced out of business. Channel 4, he said, will be the last to escape with such a small fine.

Had the Crown Prosecution Service succeeded in persuading the judge to issue a sequestration order, Channel 4's very existence would have been in doubt. Even heavy recurring fines would have jeopardised its budget for new programmes.

The cost to Channel 4 of broadcasting the documentary, which alleged widespread collusion between security

forces and loyalist assassination squads in Northern Ireland, will total more than £750,000.

The channel was fined £75,000, but the total bill comes to ten times that amount when its production and legal costs are added to the £50,000 spent to rehearse staff endangered in the making of the programme and the "substantial court costs" it was ordered to pay yesterday.

Frances D'Souza, director of Article 19, the human rights group, said: "British viewers will never see another programme like this on television. It is another nail in the coffin for investigative journalism."

Undermining journalistic independence and investigative reporting is clearly now more important than supporting the public's right to know and the public interest."

The National Union of Journalists said: "No one will ever talk to journalists if they believe they're likely to be betrayed or that their lives are at risk. This is a catastrophe for free speech."

Channel 4 faces financial problems and has already angered independent producers with a budget squeeze that has seen the proportion of its overall budget spent on programmes decline in real terms since 1989.

Box Productions, which made *The Committee*, is just one of hundreds of independent producers struggling with reduced budgets. But Box, which is understood to have an overdraft of £34,000, is unlikely to contribute to the £750,000 fine.

The right of journalists to protect their sources in the investigation of matters of public concern has never been enshrined in British law. It remains an ethical principle that now looks threatened with extinction.

Even before the Act was tightened up in 1989, British courts were never very sympathetic to journalists.

In 1983, the House of Lords forced *The Guardian* to hand over a leaked Ministry of Defence document about cruise missiles. The ruling led to the identification of Sarah Tisdall, a junior clerk in the foreign office, who was jailed for six months.

The last time a journalist was jailed in Britain for refusing to reveal his sources was in 1963 when Brendan Mulholland, a *Daily Mail* reporter, and Reginald Foster, of the *Daily Sketch*, were imprisoned for refusing to disclose sources of information to the Vassall spy tribunal.

Unlike Germany, where journalists cannot be obliged to name informants in a court of law, and Sweden, where withholding the name of a source is a basic right, Britain has never enshrined that right in the law.

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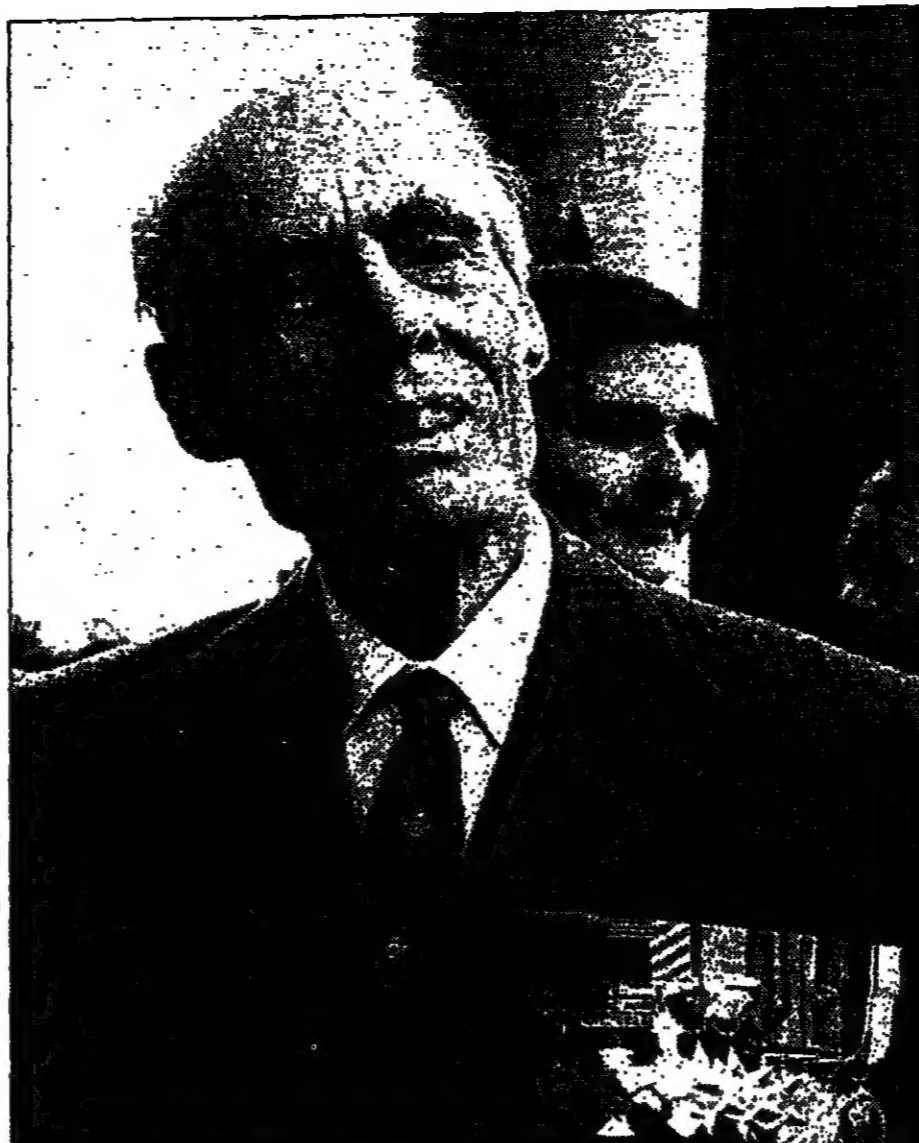
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Glory days: Lord Cheshire at a meeting of VC and GC holders in 1988

Tributes paid to man of courage and inspiration

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

WARM tributes were paid last night to Lord Cheshire, VC, Britain's most decorated wartime pilot, who died yesterday at the age of 74 from motor neurone disease.

As a bomber pilot, the former Group Captain Leonard Cheshire took part in 100 bombing missions in the second world war. He observed the 1945 atomic bombing of Nagasaki and was awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest award for gallantry, in 1944.

He later set up the Cheshire Foundation Homes, which provided care for the disabled all over the world. The foundation, set up in 1952, now has 264 homes for the disabled in 48 countries.

Lord Cheshire is survived by his wife, Baroness Ryder of Warsaw, who founded the Sue Ryder foundation for the sick and disabled of all ages groups.

A committed Catholic, Lord Cheshire wrote several religious works, including *Pilgrimage to the Shroud*, about the Turin Shroud, which he championed.

George Foulkes, shadow defence minister, said: "He was a man who contributed a great deal in many ways, not just with a distinguished military record but subsequently in the inspired and inspiring work he did for so many thousands of ex-servicemen. Having distinguished

himself as one of the few to be awarded a VC he went on to do more distinguished work in civilian life — a very rare talent."

Tam Dalyell, the Labour MP for Linlithgow, said last night: "The Cheshire Homes, which were a most imaginative idea, have given hope to many deserving people. If ever a man made use of the esteem in which his countrymen held him it was Group Captain Cheshire."

Last month, Lord Cheshire defied his doctor's orders to attend the unveiling ceremony of a statue to Arthur "Bomber" Harris at the RAF church, St Clement Dances, in the Strand. In spite of the controversy and the presence of demonstrators, Lord Cheshire spoke with typical

courage and loyalty. "I would have gone even if I had to be carried on a stretcher; without Arthur Harris the war wouldn't have been ended in 1945." It was his last public appearance.

When Lord Cheshire learnt that he had the muscle-wasting disease he said that he was not too unhappy about it. "I've always worked for the disabled, but it has always been a case of me and them. Now I am one of them too."

"At last I can fully begin to understand their problems, and know exactly what they are going through and what still needs to be done."

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, former Labour prime minister, said: "I am deeply sorry. I was speaking to him only shortly before the House of Lords broke up. He was a very modest man, a man of the highest principles. There is no doubt that the circumstances in which he gained the VC had a tremendous impact on him."



Days of war: Cheshire the pilot in 1944

OLYMPIC SKETCH by Simon Barnes

Casting stones at the death or glory games

There was a survey in the United States recently. They asked 198 world-class athletes aged between 16 and 35 if they would take an undetectable drug that would guarantee them a gold medal, but would kill them within five years.

Amazingly, only 32 per cent said yes. The results would seem to present us with the shocking conclusion that 48 per cent of American world-class athletes are liars.

Am I being too cynical? Perhaps a little, but athletes are not ordinary people. Most young men see death as a minor detail compared with the loss of virility. But athletes — young men in their prime — have happily taken drugs they know will disrupt their sexual performance. Athletes are men you don't meet every day.

And so yesterday, Ben Johnson, the steroid king, made his return to the Olympic Games. Ben Ben. He was banned for two years after his disgrace at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Ben was back: gold chain glistening and head freshly shaven. He ran his first heat with his bullet start of old, and then jogged through to qualify for the next round. "I don't feel a lot of pressure," he said afterwards. "I'm just happy to be back running."

He qualified, if a shade uneasily, with his second

run, and so goes into the semi-final today. With Jason Livingston, the British sprinter, back home having got it they want it. At least 20 new "athletic foods" have been launched here at the Games, and there is a miracle in every one. Athletes don't necessarily believe that; but they will eat them all the same. Just in case.

If one vitamin pill will do you good, an athlete will take 20. Just in case. Steroids are the logical next step, and not in the small doses that help sick and weedy children, but in massive doses that drastically affect the hormone level, the liver, the kidneys.

It is an uncomfortable thought. But before we recoil in horror at Livingston and Johnson, let us remember that our social lives are based around a drug that kills, causes lethal accidents, madness, despair and disaster. Let us judge athletes and ourselves by a consistent standard, rather than treat a drunk driver as a scallywag and Jason Livingston, who said that cod liver oil, multi-vitamins and paracetamol could have caused him to test positive, as a national disgrace.

Athletes are a crazy mixture of insecurity and arrogance. They believe they are the best in the world; but

they live in terror of getting left behind. The training programme, the shoes, the dietary supplement: if the others have got it they want it. At least 20 new "athletic foods" have been launched here at the Games, and there is a miracle in every one. Athletes don't necessarily believe that; but they will eat them all the same. Just in case.

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Athletes are a crazy mixture of insecurity and arrogance. They believe they are the best in the world; but

Poll tax debt 'to last till 2000'

BY SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE in 12 English local authorities will still be chasing poll-tax defaulters in the year 2000, according to an official survey leaked yesterday by Jack Straw, Labour's local government spokesman.

The survey, commissioned by the environment department and carried out by CSL Group Ltd, estimated that more than £1 billion of poll tax was owed to authorities. About half predicted they would not recover the money before the council tax was introduced next April and a further 8 per cent expected to be pursuing defaulters at the turn of the century.

Mr Straw said: "The continuing chaos of the poll tax is going to haunt the implementation of the council tax."

Mr Straw said he was also alarmed at the finding that 13.4 per cent of authorities had not reviewed their poll tax registers even though they would form the basis of the information used for the council tax.

Degree results

Degree results from Edinburgh, Newcastle, Sheffield, Nottingham and Hull universities will be published on Monday. During the next two months, *The Times* will publish in full the results of all classes from all universities and former polytechnics, making it the most complete service of its kind.

LSE submits £65m bid for County Hall

The London School of Economics yesterday offered the government £65 million for County Hall, former home of the Greater London Council (Douglas Broom writes). If the bid succeeds the LSE would move from its warren of buildings off the Aldwych to create a new European university for training senior administrators. The LSE would meet the purchase cost by selling its site and raising a commercial mortgage for the balance. The loan would be repaid from income generated by a proposed social science park and increased student numbers.

County Hall has been provisionally sold to the Japanese hotel and leisure group Shira-yama, which wants to convert it into a 600-bedroom hotel. The contract allows the government until October to reconsider the deal. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, gave the LSE until noon yesterday to put in a counter-bid after Shira-yama said its position was being undermined by speculation about the LSE's interest in County Hall. Iain Crawford, the LSE's chief negotiator, said: "This is an excellent chance for the government to prove its commitment to higher education."

Makoto Toyota, of Shira-yama, said the LSE bid was a spit in the bucket. "The secretary of state said he was giving the LSE time to put in a firm offer. Well this is not a firm offer. It is a highly conditional offer. Mr Howard should reject this bid at once and end all uncertainty by announcing that the sale of County Hall to us will go ahead." The environment department said the LSE bid would be evaluated by the London Residuary Body, which would make recommendations to Mr Howard in due course, a period expected to be at least six weeks.

IRA blamed for blasts

Eight firebombs found at the main shopping centre in Milton Keynes are thought to be the work of an IRA active service unit. Police yesterday said they were similar to 12 bombs found in an IRA attack on a shopping centre at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, in June. The search for the bombs began after one was spotted at a toy shop. Two exploded, one damaging a store. Three of the bombs were left in a library. Throughout Thursday night more than 100 police and bomb disposal officers searched the complex and several hundred people spent part of the night in a leisure centre because their cars were within the police cordon.

Jackson 'saves' fan

MICHAEL Jackson appeared on the balcony of his hotel yesterday to prevent a young fan leaping from a six-storey block of flats. The man, who stood on a parapet opposite the Dorchester hotel, central London, screamed that he would jump if he did not see the singing star. Police called Jackson's suite to inform him of the situation and he agreed to make a brief appearance. He spent about two minutes dancing on the balcony, waving to the youth and his fans below. The man then climbed through a window to be questioned by police. Last night Jackson presented: £350,000 to the Prince of Wales for his Prince's Trust before his concert at Wembley stadium.

Drive for safer parking

Car park operators are to come under pressure from the government to introduce better security measures in an attempt to cut car crime. The intention is to make the companies provide better service to their customers for their sometimes considerable charges.

National Car Parks, British Rail, London Underground and other big concerns are to be told by the Home Office to take action to improve safety. Police will launch an award next month for car parks which meet certain safety requirements in an attempt to force companies to introduce tougher measures to curb car theft and theft from vehicles.

Visa refusal 'racist'

The man who was Britain's first Asian lord mayor says a decision by the Foreign Office to prevent his sister coming to Britain to attend the wedding of her two sons a week tomorrow "shows the ugly face of racist immigration laws". Councillor Mohammed Ajeesh, who was elected Lord Mayor of Bradford, West Yorkshire, for 1985-6, will see his daughters Rizwana, 22, and Shabbana, 21, married to their cousins Jamil Akhtar, 24, and Munir, 22. The boys' mother, Mrs Aziz Begum, 60, applied to the British High Commission in Pakistan for a two-month visa to visit this country to attend the wedding and take a short holiday, but permission was refused.

Porcelain deal foiled

A market trader who bought a piece of porcelain from a man in a pub for £200 found it was worth £35,000, a court was told yesterday. Colin Oldaker, 38, was arrested by police as he took the nineteenth-century Dresden in a cardboard box to be valued. Worcester Crown Court was told. The piece had been stolen from a display case in Hertford's art gallery and museum eight months earlier. Oldaker, of Harbourne, Birmingham, admitted handling stolen goods and was given a 12-month jail sentence suspended for two years. Gerald Baring QC, the assistant recorder, said he accepted that Oldaker had not realised the porcelain's true value.

MP loses court plea

An attempt by Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Ealing North, to have allegations of corruption against him dealt with by fellow MPs, instead of by a jury in a criminal court, has been ruled out by a judge. John Nutting, counsel for Mr Greenway, had claimed during lengthy legal submissions at the Old Bailey that the court had no jurisdiction over him. A spokeswoman by the Ministry of Justice rejected the submission in April but his ruling was subject to a reporting ban until yesterday, when he revoked the ban after an application by David Eady QC, representing the BBC, ITV, Express Newspapers. Today, the *Daily Mirror* and *The Daily Telegraph*.

Officer loses command

A married British Army officer has been relieved of his command of a Territorial unit after an alleged affair with a married female officer. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Rescorle, 42, a regular officer, was removed from command of the 5th Battalion Light Infantry TA in Shrewsbury by the Ministry of Defence on July 16, an army spokesman said. Lt-Col Rescorle, who took up the command in October, is moving to the Light Division HQ in Winchester. He refused to comment on the circumstances of his removal and said his wife had gone to Cornwall. He joined the British Army in 1971 and was mentioned in despatches in 1983 for action in Northern Ireland.

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Battered wife who set fire to husband wins right to retrial

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN jailed for life for killing her husband by setting him on fire with petrol after years of violence and humiliation won the right to a retrial in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

But the judges, led by Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the Lord Chief Justice, dashed hopes of early freedom for Kiranjit Ahluwalia, 36, by refusing to reduce her murder conviction to one of manslaughter through provocation. They also refused bail.

Lord Taylor categorically rejected the invitation by Geoffrey Robertson QC, counsel for Mrs Ahluwalia, to reframe the law on provocation, simply because her conviction had resulted in a life sentence.

"The existence of a mandatory life sentence for all mur-

ders is a matter for Parliament, not for this court, and we cannot bend the law in an individual case or class of cases where it may be thought the mandatory life sentence operates harshly," he said.

"There are important considerations of public policy which would be involved should provocation be redefined so as to blur the distinction between sudden loss of self-control (the present definition) and deliberate retribution."

However, Lord Taylor said in his 45-minute judgment that fresh medical evidence that Mrs Ahluwalia might have been suffering from diminished responsibility at the time of the 1989 killing rendered her murder conviction "unsafe and unsatisfactory." Justice demanded

that the new evidence, supporting her claim to have been suffering from "battered wife syndrome", should be heard at a retrial.

Mrs Ahluwalia, from Crawley, Sussex, convicted at Lewes Crown Court in December 1989 of murdering her husband Despak, is to be retried at the Central Criminal Court, where her lawyers will put forward her plea of diminished responsibility.

Lord Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Judge, refused a request for bail from Mr Robertson — a decision that caused sighs of disappointment in a court packed with women's rights campaigners, relatives and members of the Asian community.

Relatives had put up £10,000 in sureties and promised that Mrs Ahluwalia would live at her sister-in-law's home, where she could be with her two young sons. Lord Taylor said it would not be in the interests of justice to grant bail, but indicated the retrial should be expedited.

Supporters greeted the decision with a mixture of disappointment and renewed hope.

Sukhjot Wallia, Mrs Ahluwalia's brother-in-law, said: "We expected her to be freed. Nevertheless Kiranjit is now able to put her defence properly, which she was not able to do at the trial in 1989. It gives us hope."

In his judgment Lord Taylor strongly defended the summing-up by Mr Justice Leonard in 1989 as fair and correct in law. Defence counsel's criticisms had been unfounded; he had faithfully followed the law as it related to provocation and made the jury fully aware of the history of Mrs Ahluwalia's ill-treatment.

The legal principle that "provocation" was something that caused an ordinary and reasonable person to suffer a "temporary and sudden" loss of self-control was laid down by Lord Devlin in 1949 and had been followed by the courts ever since, he said. It was last upheld a year ago in the case of another ill-used wife, Sara Thornton, who also failed to get her murder conviction reduced to manslaughter.

Lord Taylor said that in the present case the court had been boldly asked to hold that Lord Devlin's statement of the law was wrong. That was a matter for Parliament.

He added that the judge had correctly left the issue of provocation to the jury. Nor had he suggested that a defence of provocation should be rejected because the last provocative act or word of the husband was not followed at once by the fatal acts.

A delay would not of itself destroy the defence of provocation provided there was a "sudden and temporary loss of self-control" at the time of the killing, caused by the alleged provocation, he said.



Making their point: supporters of Kiranjit Ahluwalia demonstrating outside the Court of Appeal yesterday

Father to keep baby he 'stole'

A FATHER branded a "shifty, untruthful and unreliable" witness by a judge yesterday given custody of the baby daughter he snatched from his mother.

Judge Robin McEwan QC, said the mother, Philomena Sherwin, of New Ross, co. Wexford, was "blameless" and might think his ruling a kidnapper's charter. But in spite of his failings, Richard Trumayne, of Bournemouth, Borders, was a good father, and leaving 22-month-old Callie with him was in her best interests.

The couple met in 1985 and lived together for six years, lastly in a caravan where Ms Sherwin still lives. Edinburgh Court of Session was told. Callie was born at Waterford in 1990 and Mr Trumayne left Ms Sherwin in April 1991, taking the baby.

Judge McEwan, a temporary judge, said: "I have the greatest sympathy for the mother. She stands blameless and untried. It may well seem to her that this decision is a kidnapper's charter. The test, however, is the welfare of the child, not that of either competing party. I have to apply the law as I see it." His personal opinion of Mr Trumayne as a witness did not matter.

The judge said he had decided to leave Callie with her father as she had been with him for some time, had a stable environment and according to medical evidence, it would be emotionally disturbing to move her.

Sex with journalist claim a pack of lies, says neo-Nazi leader

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

EUGENE Terre Blanche, the South African neo-Nazi leader, yesterday denied having had sexual intercourse with Miss Allan, the journalist who is suing Channel 4 over a film that she claims portrayed her as a lady of easy virtue.

Mr Terre Blanche dismissed as a pack of lies the "scandalous allegations" that an affair had taken place between himself and Miss Allan. In a written statement read to the High Court by Charles Gray QC, for Miss Allan, he said: "Our enemies know no Christian morality."

The statement, read on the tenth and final day of evidence in the case, was sworn

by Mr Terre Blanche at his Transvaal farm two days earlier. He also denied having proposed marriage to Miss Allan — "even in jest".

The court has been told that Mr Terre Blanche, who is married with a young daughter, had telephoned the flat of Marlene Burger, news editor of the *Sunday Times* of South Africa, where Miss Allan was staying, to tell her he was no longer going to stay with his wife and to discuss marriage.

Mr Terre Blanche said he was submitting the affidavit to the High Court "following the despicable attack on my character by Mr 'Kays' Smit", a former associate, who had told the court there was no doubt Mr Terre Blanche and Miss Allan had had an affair.

Miss Allan, 41, of Hampton Court, Surrey, is suing Channel 4 over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*, which she says portrayed her as a lady of easy virtue who slept with Mr Terre Blanche.

Channel 4 denies it suggested an affair, but argues that such an allegation would have been justified because Miss Allan did have an affair with Mr Terre Blanche.

The case continues on Monday.

GPs slow to use new, expensive medication

BY ALISON ROBERTS

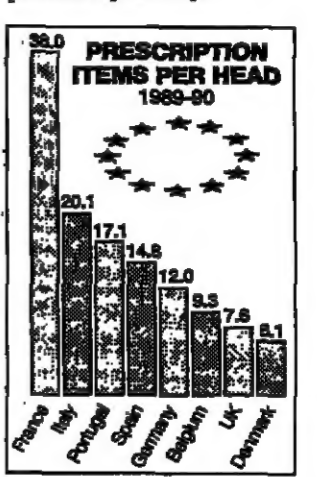
BRITISH GPs prescribe far fewer drugs than their European counterparts and are more likely to offer older, less expensive medication, according to a study for the pharmaceutical industry. The survey is likely to revive fears over financial constraints imposed by National Health Service reforms.

While the average French patient receives 38 items on prescription per year, British doctors gave out an average of 7.6 items per person, said the independent survey into prescribing habits. Drugs in France are kept at an artificially low price by the government and patients often consult more than one doctor and receive several prescriptions.

More important, according to the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI), which commissioned the study, is the British reluctance to offer patients new, more effective, although expensive, drugs.

GPs denied that clinical decisions were based on financial considerations although value for money was an influence. Dr Stephen Henry, a founder member of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, said British doctors were more cautious about new drugs than others. "GPs have been caught out in the past by new drugs which were pushed by their makers."

Spending on drugs as a percentage of the total NHS budget fell to its lowest level since 1986, according to the ABPI annual report, also published yesterday.



Donaldson warns of appeal delays

BY FRANCES GIBB

DELAYS in the Court of Appeal are worse than ever expected, Lord Donaldson of Lynton said on his last day in court yesterday.

The Master of the Rolls told 80 judges and lawyers that it was for the government to decide how much to spend on the administration of justice. "But equally I have no doubt it is my duty to inform both the government and the public if the level of resources is such that the standard of service the courts can offer is likely to decline or is declining," he added, as Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, sat next to him.

Lord Donaldson, who is retiring on September 3 after ten years as head of the Court of Appeal's civil division, said that last autumn he had stated that delays before the Court of Appeal, which had been contained in past years, could not be held at that level without either more judges being appointed or some filter on cases coming before the court, or both.

"Unfortunately, the situation is now worse than we ever expected," he said. There were 989 outstanding civil appeals this time last year and "today there are 1,130, and this is rising fast".

The difference between the figures was more than one year's work for one division of the court. Delays were likely to increase because one Court of Appeal judge would probably have to be allocated to the criminal appeals division (where there is a 26 per cent rise in appeals), he said.

Lord Donaldson's comments came after fulsome tributes from the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, the attorney-general, Sir Nicholas Lyell QC, the chairman of the Bar, Lord Williams QC, and the president of the Law Society.



Donaldson: "Case load is rising fast"

Mark Sheldon, Lord Taylor, who sat alongside Lord Donaldson with other heads of division and the Lord Chancellor, told the assembled judges and lawyers that the Master of the Rolls had had a "uniquely full and distinguished career of public service".

Apart from a considerable contribution to the law itself, Lord Donaldson had ushered in many innovations in administration and procedure.

He had put lawyers into the civil appeals office to assist with case management; brought in skeleton arguments; the "handed down" judgment; and the annual review of the Court of Appeal's performance.

"As he ceases to become Master of the Rolls, he will become Master of the Final Fling; and (in a reference to Lord Donaldson's love of yachting) reversing a well-known phrase, we say Good-bye Sailor," Lord Taylor said.

Sir Nicholas Lyell QC told Lord Donaldson that at the Bar he would be remembered for his openness, lack of "side" and "legendary speed with which you would always come to the point and bring us to it".

Fight to save Twyford Down ends as Brussels drops action

Michael McCarthy and Tom Walker report on a change of heart in the Brussels bureaucracy

THE campaign to save Twyford Down in Hampshire from the government's road-building programme ended in failure yesterday when the European Commission dropped its legal action aimed at blocking the M3 motorway extension.

The legal action was the last stage of the campaign to prevent a 400ft-wide cutting being carved through the chalk hillsides near Winchester, which is one of the most heavily protected landscapes in England. John MacGregor, the transport secretary, said that he was delighted by the news and that the tender for construction would be let as soon as possible. Environmental pressure groups were deeply dismayed and said that they would seek an emergency meeting with John Major.

However, the Commission is going ahead with a prosecution of the British government that campaigners hope will stop Oxford Wood in southeast London being bisected by the proposed east London river crossing road, Oxford. London's last big stretch of ancient woodland is now likely to become the national focus for future anti-road-building protests.

Chris Smith, Labour's environment protection spokesman, joined green groups yesterday in calling for the campaign to save it to be intensified. People Against the River Crossing said that its efforts would now be redoubled.

The government has refused to pay for tunnels, costing more than £90 million at Twyford Down and £10 million at Oxford, to minimise destruction. Both schemes were among seven construction projects over which Carlo Ripa di Meana, the previous European environmental commissioner, began prosecution of the government last October, alleging that inadequate environmental assessments of them had been carried out. He accompanied his move with a personal request for work on the schemes to stop, infuriating the government and giving powerful ammunition to the Tory Eurosceptics.

Yesterday, the Commission, which now has a new environment commissioner, Karel Van Miert, abandoned proceedings in five of the cases: the M3 at Twyford Down; the Channel tunnel rail link; the M11 link road

at Hackney Wick, east London; an incinerator at South Warwick Hospital; and a soft-drinks plant at Brackmills, Northampton. In two cases, it issued a "reasoned opinion" implying that the government had a case to answer before the European Court: a BP gas terminal near Falkirk, and Oxford Wood. The government has a further two months to show why it should not be prosecuted.

The go-ahead for Twyford Down's destruction brought bitter comment from those involved in the fight to save it. "The fact that the officially recognised finest areas of our countryside can be bulldozed without let or hindrance is nothing short of criminal," Robin Maynard, countryside campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said. It would appear that a deal has been struck up between the Commission and the UK and slipped through while Parliament is on holiday in an attempt to minimise outrage. The decision confirms our fears that neither UK nor EC environmental law have the power to hold back the road-building menace assailing our countryside."

Mr MacGregor countered that the M3 extension was "very much needed, long overdue and will greatly improve road conditions in the area it serves".

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GATWICK				BRISTOL			
02 Aug	Kos	7 Apt	S/C £259	09 Aug	Cyprus	7 Apt	S/C £299
02 Aug	Kos	14 Apt	S/C £289	11 Aug	Creta	7 Apt	S/C £319
08 Aug	Corfu	14 Club	S/C £294	11 Aug	Creta	14 Apt	S/C £359
09 Aug	Ibiza	14 Club	S/C £319	12 Aug	Rhodes	14 Apt	S/C £279
09 Aug	Tenerife	14 Club	S/C £329	22 Aug	Malta	14 Apt	S/C(4) £236
10 Aug	Corfu	7 Apt	S/C £239	23 Aug	Cyprus	7 Apt	S/C £299
10 Aug	Corfu	14 Apt	S/C £269	23 Aug	Cyprus	14 Apt	S/C £339
12 Aug	Preveza	7 Apt	S/C £259	24 Aug	Corfu	7 Apt	S/C £249
12 Aug	Rhodes	7 Apt	S/C £279	29 Aug	Majorca	14 Apt	S/C £289
22/28 Aug	Malta	14 Flight Only	£154	29 Aug	Malta	14 Hotel	H/B £375
25 Aug	Zante	7 Apt	S/C £249	31 Aug	Corfu	14 Apt	S/C £299
25 Aug	Zante	14 Apt	S/C £269	02 Sept	Rhodes	7 Apt	S/C £279
26 Aug	Malta	14 Apt	R/O(4) £250	02 Sept	Rhodes	14 Apt	S/C £309
28 Aug	Skiathos	14 Apt	S/C £319				
28 Aug	Malta	14 Hotel	H/B £388				
24/31 Aug	Turkey	14 Hotel	B&B £249				
25 Aug	Tenerife	14 Apt	S/C £265				
28 Aug	Athens	14 Apt	S/C £259				
29 Aug	Bulgaria	14 Hotel	H/B £235				
29 Aug	Majorca	14 Apt	S/C £265				
29 Aug	Creta	14 Apt	S/C £279				
30 Aug	Gran Canaria	14 Apt	S/C £245				

BIRMINGHAM				BUTLIN'S UK HOLIDAYS			
10 Aug	Corfu	7 Apt	S/C £279	11 Sept	Southcoast World	3 Apt	S/C(4) £32
11 Aug	Zante	7 Apt	S/C £279	12 Sept	Starcoast World	7 Apt	S/C(4) £45
11 Aug	Zante	14 Apt	S/C £319	14 Sept	Funcoast World	4 Apt	S/C(4) £27
12 Aug	Athens	7 Apt	S/C £239				
28 Aug	Malta	7 Apt	S/C(4) £185				
28 Aug	Rhodes	7 Apt	S/C £269				
26 Aug	Rhodes	14 Apt	S/C £299				
27 Aug	Malta	14 Hotel	H/B £378				
28 Aug	Tenerife	14 Apt	S/C £289				
29 Aug	Bulgaria	14 Hotel	B&B £235				

CARDIFF				SHORT BREAKS			
24 Aug	Corfu	14 Apt	S/C £295	07 Aug	Minicruise from Newcastle	2 R/O	£55
26 Aug	Rhodes	14 Apt	S/C £289	6/8/19 Aug	Lagoland	4 Hotel	B&B £129
28 Aug	Corfu	14 Apt	S/C £289				
29 Aug	Turkey	14 Hotel	B&B £279				
31 Aug	Majorca	14 Apt	S/C £265				

FAR AWAY				PLUS ENTRANCE TICKET & CAR			
04 Sept	Egypt/Nile	10 Cruise	H/B £289	28 Aug	Minicruise from Harwich	2	R/O £63
11 Sept	China Tour	18	H/B £285	7/14 Sept	Denmark Cottage	4	S/C £113
12 Sept	Tour of India	11	H/B £815				

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Britons go for gold

Today promises to be one of the most exciting in the 1992 Olympic Games, following a week in which the shadow of drugs fell over the British contenders in Barcelona.

In tomorrow's Sunday Times our expert team



of sports writers bring you all the action on and off the track. Will Linford Christie sprint to success? Will Steven Redgrave complete a golden hat-trick in the coxless pairs...? And what is the truth of the drugs scandal?

For the best Olympic coverage, don't miss The Sunday Times tomorrow

Italy puts strain on visitors' wallets

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THAILAND is the cheapest country for lunch, Canada the most reasonable for car hire and Bahrain the best place to buy petrol to run it on. But Italy is best avoided by families wanting to keep control of their holiday spending, according to a survey of 13 countries by American Express.

In a sample of 16 items on which British families are most likely to use their spare cash, Italy is the most expensive in the car hire was the highest at £329 a

week (Canada £67), with lunch costing £23.55 (Thailand £1.70). Beer varied from £2.20 in Canada to 42p in Portugal and a bottle of wine cost £18.14 in Thailand compared with £1.17 in Italy — the one item where it proved the cheapest.

Bahrain is cheapest for petrol (14p a litre) and for a soft drink (17p), but falling ill there can be expensive with a consultation costing £56.33, against £1.13 in Thailand.

	Litre of petrol (4p)	Bottle of beer (in bar)	Figures in £ sterling	Soft drink (can)	Camera film
UK	0.51	1.75	6.95	0.38	3.39
France	0.57	1.06	6.37	1.06	4.25
Spain	0.54	1.11	2.78	1.11	2.78
Germany	0.54	1.81	10.80	1.26	3.44
Austria	0.55	1.77	7.11	1.52	3.05
Holland	0.60	0.47	3.16	0.78	3.95
Italy	0.72	0.47	1.17	0.57	5.16
Portugal	0.61	0.42	3.36	0.42	4.21
Thailand	0.23	0.45	18.14	0.22	2.26
Bahamas	0.25	0.84	3.38	0.42	2.26
Canada	0.26	2.20	8.90	0.78	3.50
Australia	0.28	0.80	2.82	0.48	2.01
Japan	0.47	1.20	10.72	0.47	2.18
Bahrain	0.14	0.70	7.04	0.17	2.82

Information provided by American Express offices in each country

Buyers complain of discount 'bait' Hard-sell ploy traps late holidaymakers

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of late-book holidaymakers are being wooed into travel agents by cut-price offers then given a "hard sell" to encourage them to book more expensive packages.

Mike Grindrod, president of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta), said that to sell off thousands of unsold peak season holidays, travel agents were advertising loss leaders in their windows then using trained staff to persuade holidaymakers to spend far more.

"It is a perfectly legitimate sales pitch," he said. "The problem is getting people through the doors. You can offer them a fortnight in Majorca for £69 then once they are inside retail staff are trained to point out the drawbacks and to sell as many add-ons as possible."

Local authority trading standards officers have contacted Abta after complaints that travel agents have left offers in windows long after all holidays have been sold.

Travel agents have been told to ensure that their advertising is fair and accurate.

The loss leaders are, however, still appearing in shop windows. At Thomas Cook in High Holborn, central London, a 14-night Athens package, including hotel accommodation, was being offered for £269 from August 11. "You won't know what hotel you are staying in until you arrive," the assistant said. "It may be better to look at Skiathos for £349 or Rhodes for £319."

In the neighbouring Lunn Poly holiday shop an advertisement in the doorway promised 14 nights in Palma for £135. "That is light only," said the assistant, who immediately recommended 11 nights in an unnamed Thomson 3T hotel in Majorca for £359, or a named hotel for £475. "But I think you would be better going for a 4T [a better Thomson grading] which costs around £500," the assistant said.

The rule is clearly working.

as many tour operators report that most August holidays have been sold with little discounting. Up to 40 per cent of the packages have, however, been booked within 48 hours of departure as customers wait until the last moment in the hope of a bargain.

Mr Grindrod said: "Consumers are booking at the eleventh hour and the fifty-ninth minute, but they are booking. They had been well fed, in marketing terms, with promises of discounts and once they are tempted into the shops are buying at full brochure price."

Up to 70 hotels in Torquay face closure as thousands of families abandon planned holidays there because of the recession. The coming few weeks could be "make or break" time for hoteliers throughout the West Country, according to John Wilbraham, chairman of the Torquay Chamber of Commerce.

Leading article, page 11



On the rocks: Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, who has confirmed that the couple have separated after a 15-year relationship including 18 months of marriage

Jagger split bears out the statistics

BY RAY CLANCY

THE reported separation of Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger after 18 months of marriage and a total of 15 years together is in line with the latest statistics, which show that couples who live with each other before wedding are more likely to divorce or separate than those who do not.

A study published by the government in its annual Population Trends survey indicated that living together was not necessarily a good foundation for marital bliss.

The showbusiness couple, who have three children, sought help from marriage guidance counsellors. Miss Hall, 36, was reported as saying: "It is heartbreaking. Mick and I have talked about the state of our relationship for several months. It's a very difficult situation but I can confirm that Mick and I are separated." She added that divorce was an option.

Mr Jagger, 49, who is working on a new album, issued a statement: "My family is very important to me and I care about them very much. However, they must remain a private affair."

Relate, the marriage guidance agency, which has a branch in southwest London close to the couple's home in Richmond, said that well-known couples were increasingly seeking advice. Zelda West-Meads, a spokeswoman, said she did not know if

Miss Hall and Mr Jagger consulted the organisation as the service was confidential. "They may have come to us or they may have seen someone privately. It is quite possible that they did see some of our counsellors as we do see an increasing number of well-known people."

The government survey, published in June, was based on an analysis of couples who married in the 1980s. It showed that those who cohabited were 50 per cent more likely to have divorced within five years and 60 per cent more likely to have broken up after eight years.

John Haskay, author of the report, said specialists in marriage and family life believed that living together indicated a weaker commitment to marriage and cohabitation attracted people who were more unconventional in their beliefs and lifestyles.

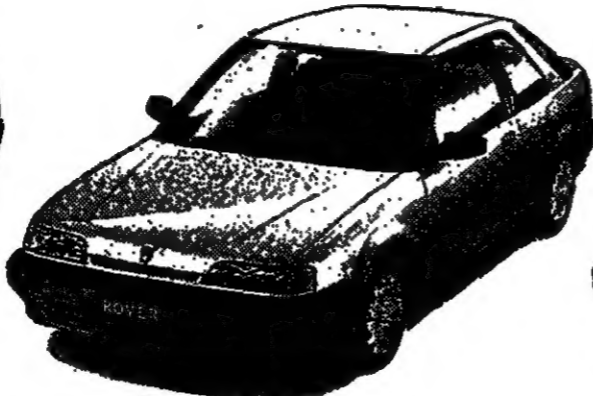
Miss Hall and Mr Jagger began their relationship in 1977 when she was living with Bryan Ferry, the rock musician, and Mr Jagger was still married to his first wife, Bianca.

As the relationship blossomed it was reported that Miss Hall was keen to marry but Mr Jagger was not. They became the jet set couple of the 1980s, constantly photographed and featuring in the gossip columns.

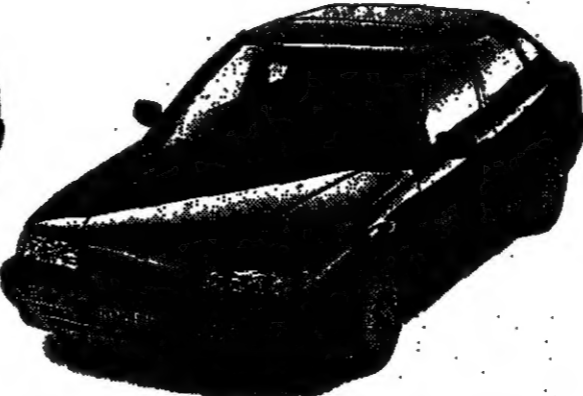
EIGHT REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE ROVER 200 SERIES.



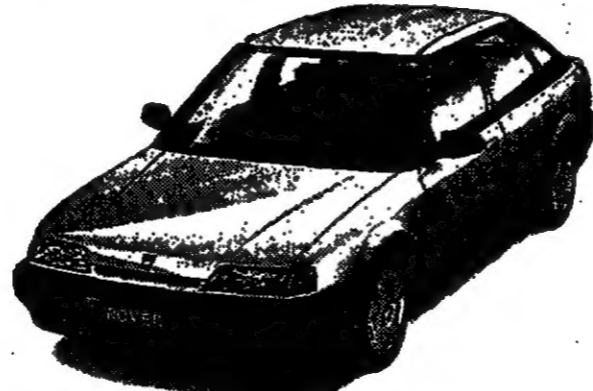
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Rover 218 SLD Turbo. Remarkable diesel performance.



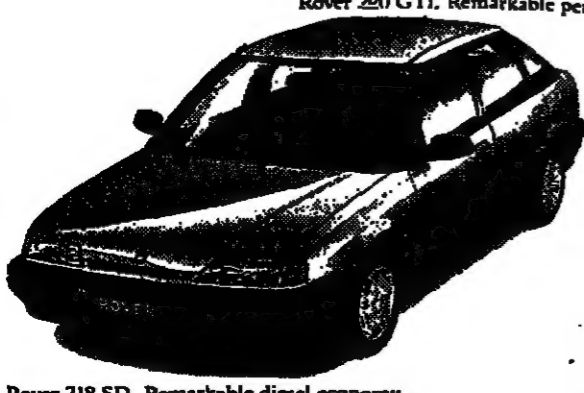
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Ill smoker challenges Rothmans

BY FRANCES GIBBS
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RETIRED taxi driver who has smoked for more than 40 years and has a chronic chest disorder challenged a tobacco company yesterday to admit the link between smoking and ill-health.

Tony Mulhearn, 54, who still smokes, travelled from Liverpool to London to attend the annual meeting of Rothmans. He is one of 250 smokers who have applied for legal aid as the first step in launching a legal action against tobacco companies.

Mr Mulhearn's question was put to the meeting on his behalf by Mark Flannagan, assistant director of Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). Mr Mulhearn was able to attend the meeting because ASH has a nominal shareholding in the company. Mr Flannagan said: "Tony Mulhearn was a Rothmans smoker. In 1970 he had a heart attack and has angina. He cannot walk more than 15 yards before getting out of breath."

"His doctor tells him these conditions are caused by smoking. He would like to ask the chairman, without referring to his particular case, if he will accept that these conditions and others, such as lung cancer, are caused by cigarette smoking."

The chairman, Lord Swaythling, said: "I would only say, of course, I would not accept that." He added: "I sympathise with his medical condition on a purely personal basis and thank you for coming."

Partygoers contract typhoid

SIX guests at a wedding anniversary party were in hospital with typhoid yesterday. Checks were being made on local nursery school pupils because the daughter of one of the victims is a teacher.

Contaminated food or drink at the party at Newham, east London, on June 27, which was attended by 170 guests, is believed to be the cause. Martin Mallin, spokesman for Newham council, said: "We are treating this very seriously."

Murder appeal

Police have asked friends of Christopher Stanley, 9, whose naked body was found in a wartime pill-box by Hounslow Heath golf course, west London, for information on dens where he may have played. A 34-year-old man is still being held.

No hiding place

Armed police boarded a train in southeast London yesterday, ordered passengers to lie on the floor and searched every carriage for gunmen who had escaped after robbing a building society office near Wimbledon station. Two suspects were arrested.

Women sue

Six women from around the country have been granted legal aid to sue manufacturers for alleged suffering caused by silicone breast implants. The claims will act as test cases for a possibly much larger group of women who have used the implants.

THE TIMES
Royal
wins
to sue

Move from
Asian school
judged fair

KS2

150

Royal maid wins battle to sue paper

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER lady's maid to the Princess Royal won the right yesterday to sue *Today* newspaper for "malicious falsehood" over an article which claimed she stole intimate letters belonging to the princess.

The Court of Appeal's decision gives Linda Joyce, 34, of Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, the right to sue over what Sir Donald Nicholls, the Vice-Chancellor, called a "grossly defamatory" article.

A legal milestone, the decision paves the way for people who do not have the financial resources to mount libel actions — for which legal aid is

not available — to fight to clear their names through malicious falsehood proceedings, for which legal aid can be claimed. Miss Joyce, who is unemployed, had been told that a libel action could have cost her as much as £40,000.

The April 1989 article about Miss Joyce, who earned £5,000 a year in her royal job, was written by Kim Sengupta, chief crime correspondent for *Today*, and published under the headlines "Royal maid stole letters" and "Sacked as Anne names the culprit".

When Miss Joyce launched legal proceedings for malicious falsehood her claim was struck out by the High Court. Yesterday that decision was reversed and the claim was reinstated. Lord Justice Nicholls, sitting with Lords Justices Butler-Sloss and Kerr, said the article clearly referred to Miss Joyce and contained assertions regarding her. "One might expect that proceedings for libel would have followed. The article was grossly defamatory. The newspaper did not publish any retraction or apology, although it has not sought to say that the assertions of fact were true."

The newspaper argued that the case should be struck out as an "abuse of the court process" because it would deprive the paper of its absolute right to a jury trial — which it would get if the action were for libel. It also contended that because damages for malicious falsehood were based on financial loss, the amount of damages would be small and outweighed by costs.

Lord Justice Nicholls noted that Miss Joyce was bringing the action to clear her name. "If she wins, she will succeed in doing so. Compared with a libel action, the amount of damages she may recover may be small but there is no reason why she should not be entitled to pursue such a claim," he said.

Move from Asian school judged fair

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

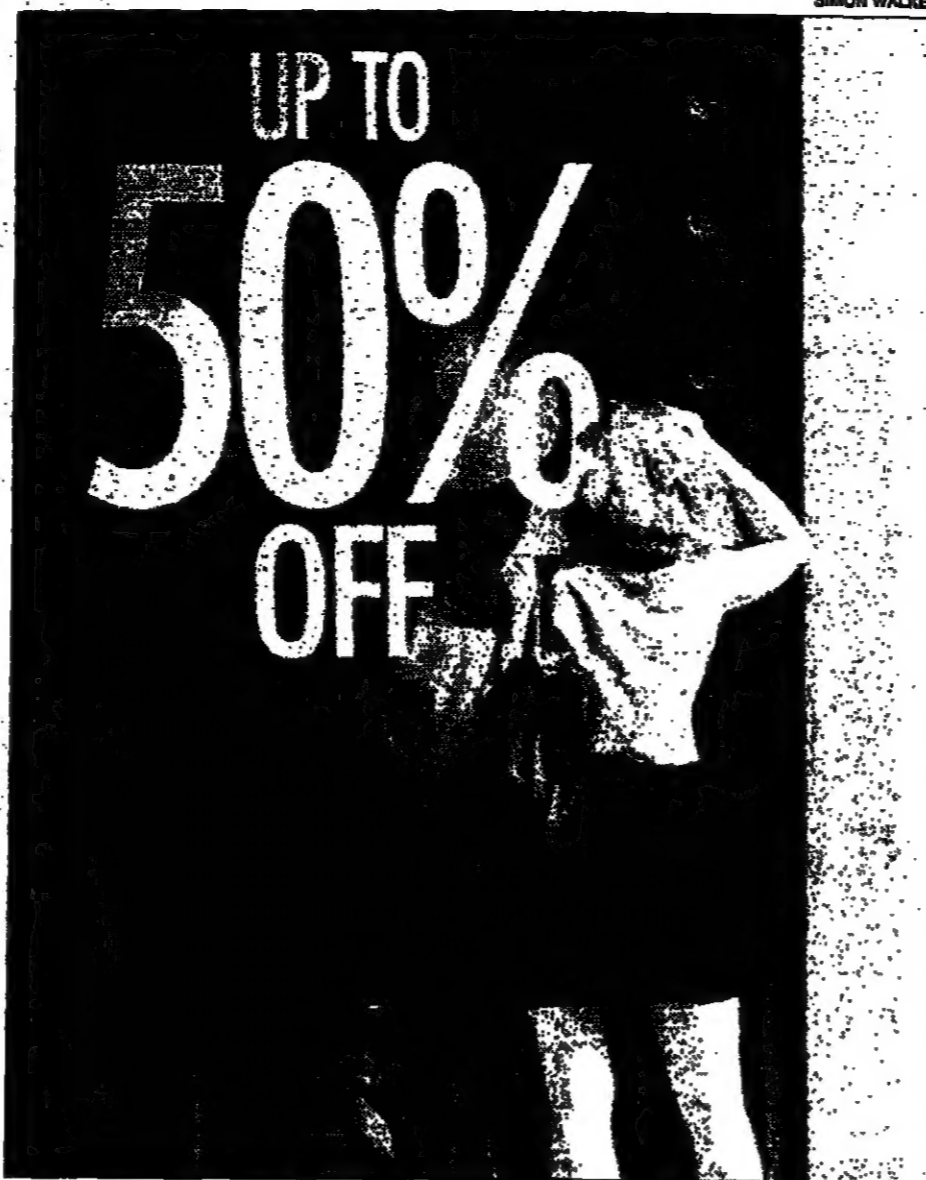
CLEVELAND County Council did not commit a racist act by allowing a mother to move her child from a predominantly Asian school to one where 98 per cent of pupils were white, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Jennifer Carney transferred her daughter Katrina, 5, from Abington Road primary school, Middlesbrough, in 1987, after she came home singing in Hindi. Race relations groups said the council acted unlawfully in agreeing reluctantly to the move, in spite of a High Court ruling last November that parental choice was supreme even if motivated by racism.

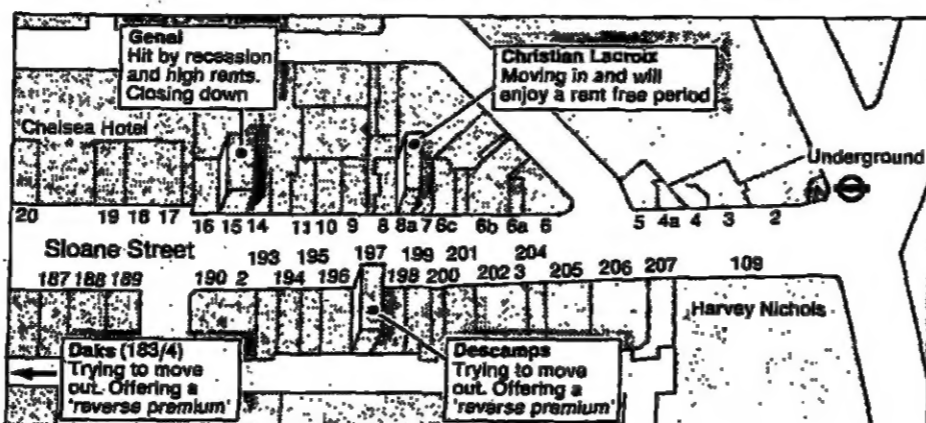
Lord Justice Parker said the council was not guilty of an act of segregation as understood by the Race Relations Act 1976. "If there was segregation here at all it consisted in the removal of Katrina... which was the lawful act of her mother."

Home of the well-heeled shopper feels the pinch

SIMON WALKER



Dress for less: boutiques that committed themselves to high fixed rents are slashing prices to stay in business. Several big names have already gone bust



HARD times are hitting one of London's prime shopping streets, with businesses in Sloane Street willing to pay up to £100,000 to sell on their leases.

"You can't even give shops away in Sloane Street at the moment," Charles Boston, a letting agent with Francis Russell, says. Instead, retailers will pay lump sums to new lessees or allow them to take over rent-free.

The retailers want to move out because their trade is too low to cover high rents negotiated in the late 1980s and high rates. A few years ago, a new lease for a large shop on the west London street, which links Knightsbridge in the north to the boutiques of Chelsea in the south, cost about £300,000 a year. Rents were fixed for five years and could only be adjusted upwards.

Sloane Street is arguably one of the three most fashionable retail addresses in the capital, with Brompton Road and Bond Street. Its mix of freeholders includes Cadogan Estates, Wyndham Investments and BP Pension Trust. The street's present predicament is an indicator of the depth of the retail recession.

"There was an extraordinary cachet about Sloane Street in the late 1980s,"

A few years ago, retailers paid a high price to get into fashionable Sloane Street. Now they are willing to pay again to get out, Rachel Kelly writes

Raymond Dowse, of Healey & Baker, says. "At that time, there was a shortage of shops available on new leases, and such was the demand from international retailers that existing leases exchanged hands at ever-increasing premiums." Any tenant wishing to acquire an existing lease from a trader would have expected to pay a capital sum of about £250,000.

Now the atmosphere in Sloane Street is more muted, although shopkeepers are keeping up a brave face. The shops are dominated by sales, with reductions of up to 70 per cent in Katherine Hamnett, 60 per cent in Esprit and closing down sales in Kitzia and Genel. Chanel, Gucci and Armani were all empty yesterday. Only one well-coiffed and well-dressed lady-who-lunches with a dachshund under one arm was to be seen. Instead, the street was full of ice-cream-eating tourists, who were avoiding the shops.

Daks, at number 183-184, is paying £375,000, negotiated in December

1988; Gucci, at 17-18 is paying £253,000, negotiated in September 1989; George Rech, at 181-182, is paying £450,000, negotiated in September 1990; and Henry Cottons, at 175-176, is paying £410,000, negotiated in March 1990. Many that have accepted similar levels of rent are now keen to leave Sloane Street if a new retailer can be found to take on their lease.

"They would be joining a long exodus of retailers from a street that was once fought over by fashionable businesses keen to move in."

Many, such as the two Genel fashion shops, have gone bust. "Once shops fought to get space on Sloane Street. Now they are fighting to leave," Mr Boston says.

Typical of the difficulties in finding a new tenant is the story of number 88, once occupied by the shoe shop Bertie, now closed because of "rationalisation". It has finally found a new tenant, a year after it began advertising for one.

High rents are the final straw

AT 197 Sloane Street, Descamps, a French soft furnishings retailer, is stuck with a rent negotiated in December 1989, which means it has to pay £203,500 a year for a single shop unit, an amount not justified by the retail climate and the collapse in consumer spending. On behalf of their clients, Healey & Baker are offering a reverse premium of £100,000 a year to a suitable tenant, a figure understood to be negotiable.

The Genel shops at 15 and 147 Sloane Street were bought in early 1990 at the height of the boom. Both are fashion shops selling

leather goods. The proprietor paid £450,000 for the lease of 15 and £250,000 for 147, which needed substantial building work. One shop is closed, the other is holding a closing-down sale.

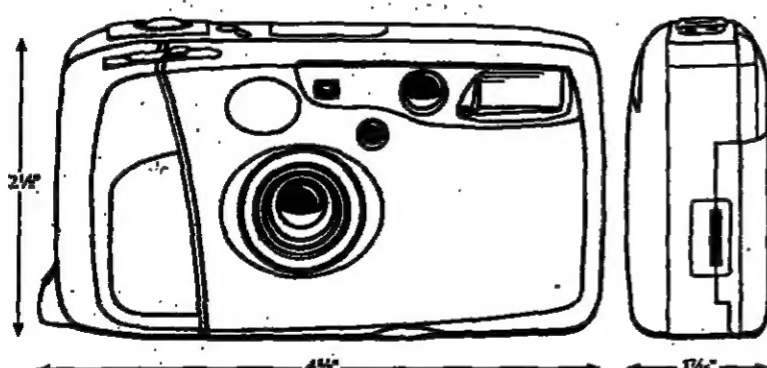
The letting agents Healey & Baker have recently agreed terms on 88 Sloane Street with the fashion designer Christian Lacroix. Raymond Dowse of Healey & Baker says that at the height of the boom in 1981, many retailers would have been after the site. He prefers not to reveal the exact terms of the deal with Christian Lacroix. The freehold is owned by BP Pension Fund

and was previously let to the shop Bertie, which closed after rationalisation. Christian Lacroix has been granted a new lease by Bertie, which had to concede a substantial rent-free period.

Daks would also like to sell its lease. The company negotiated it in December 1988, paying a rent of £375,000. According to Charles Boston, the shop would accept a reverse premium of about £200,000 for another retailer to take the lease off its hands. "If even Daks cannot afford these rents it is indicative of just how serious the problem is," he says.

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If on the other hand you want to take a night scene or create a certain mood using whatever light is available, you'll want the T4's 'night scene' mode which lets you shoot at a slower speed.

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Severn rescue teams went to wrong end of rail tunnel

BY ALLAN SMITH

RESCUERS were sent to the wrong end of the Severn tunnel to attend to two crashed trains last year, the enquiry into the accident was told yesterday.

Firemen and volunteer British Rail rescuers were wrongly told that the trains were at the Bristol end of the 4½-mile tunnel, though the exact location of the trains was known. Just over an hour after the crash rescuers learnt that the trains were a mile from the Newport end, and they had to retrace their steps to reach 150 injured passengers.

The Bristol enquiry into the crash for the Health and Safety Executive was told on the fifth day of hearings of confusion over messages sent

by BR staff to the emergency services.

The enquiry is examining the circumstances and cause of the crash on December 7 last year, when a two-coach sprinter train from Portsmouth ran into the rear of a 125 InterCity train from Paddington to Cardiff.

Yesterday John Buxton, BR's safety director for Swindon, made a formal statement in which BR admitted a misunderstanding over the location of the train after the collision. He said: "The mileage of the accident was correctly established, but associated information which was meant to be helpful was incorrectly relayed and caused confusion."

Rail staff did not refer to tunnel plans detailing mileage markers until firemen at the Bristol end asked for details. He emphasised that BR was constantly reviewing safety in the 105-year-old tunnel. Before the accident the use of specialist consultants was being considered to help assess risk factors.

Mr Buxton revealed that BR had planned to spend £4 million in improvements, particularly at the Sudbrook pumping station. That would have improved lift facilities to aid rescuers entering the tunnel. A new control centre for emergencies was also planned at Sudbrook.

British Rail has admitted responsibility for the crash. The trains were carrying almost 300 passengers and BR faces more than 150 compensation claims from passengers, some of whom waited up to four hours before being taken to safety. Nobody died in the crash.

Earlier yesterday John Chessman, duty operations manager at BR's Swindon control centre, said in evidence that he was told by the area manager that there had been an accident in the tunnel at the Bristol end, a message having been relayed from a Newport signalman. Mr Chessman immediately began telephoning the emergency services, beginning with the Bristol side.

Some time between 11.15am and 11.30am a call was received from firemen at the Bristol end, seeking the train's exact location. It was only then the Newport signalman was recalled for mileage marker details.

Robin Seymour, chief inspecting officer of railways, conducting the enquiry, suggested that with hindsight it might have been better to have established the exact mileage at an earlier stage.

The enquiry was also told that some tunnel emergency telephones were not working at the time and Mr Buxton admitted that a rescue train was delayed entering the tunnel because of a signalman's concern for the safety of other rescuers at the scene. (PA)

UK experiment goes into space

A BRITISH experiment that may help resolve the origins of life left Cape Canaveral yesterday on a six-month mission on the space shuttle Atlantis. The experiment, by Sir, the former Scientific Instrument Research Association at Chislehurst, Kent, will expose simple life forms to space effects to see if, millions of years ago, they could have survived a trip possibly on a meteorite to Earth.

Archive puts a human face on Boer war

Alan Hamilton reports on the unearthing of a young officer's remarkable record of battle

THE greatest relief since Mafeking since the West Yorkshire Regiment enjoy a magazine and mail from home after the Battle of Spion Kop at the height of the Boer war almost a century ago.

These scenes are from a remarkable archive of letters, diaries, signals and more than 1,000 photographs assembled by Lt Malcolm Riall, who served as a signals officer with the West Yorkshires throughout the campaign. The collection, with negatives stored in tins and hundreds of prints bound in albums, has remained perfectly preserved in the care of his family ever since, unseen by any outsider. Now it is to be handed over to the Liddell Hart Centre for military archives at King's College London.

By referring to the diaries, the exact time and place of every picture can be established. The officers are reading *The King* magazine, to which Riall contributed articles and pictures while resting in camp on February 1, 1900. The pom-pom gun is about to take part in the battle of Botha's Pass on June 8, 1900.

John Golley, a former wartime RAF pilot and military author who will write a book based on the collection, and who is negotiating a possible television documentary with the BBC, says that Riall was "an extraordinary man: very articulate, methodical and concise. Everything in the collection relates. He was not afraid to express his emotions and clearly relished the comradeship of his fellow soldiers."

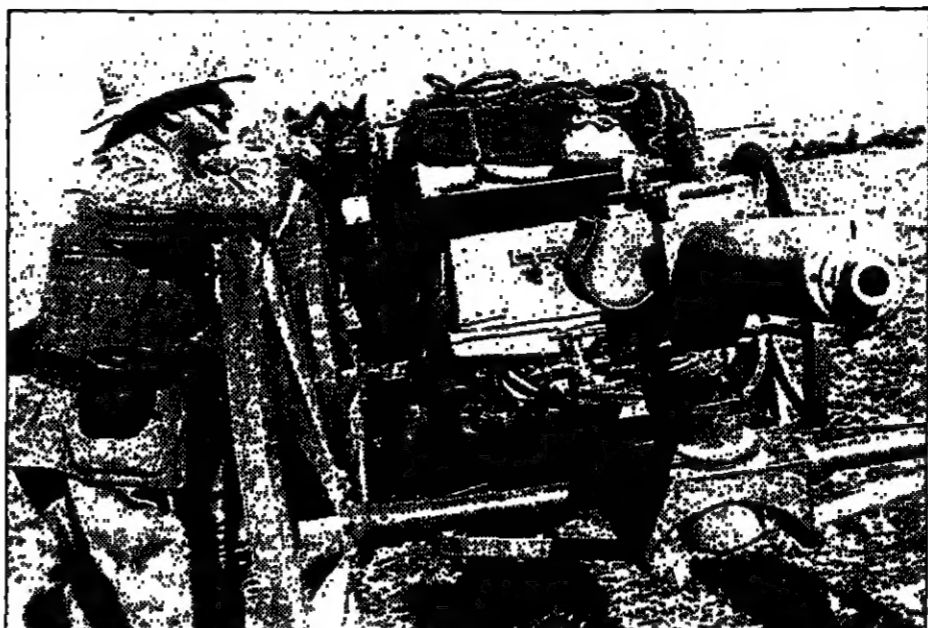
Other photographs in the collection, which embraces the entire three years of the war, include scenes of an ambushed train carrying that more celebrated reporter, the



News from the home front: Lt Riall's officer colleagues relax, above, with a magazine sent out specially by its editor and, below, a pom-pom gun about to be used by the regiment in the Battle of Botha's Pass

Morning Post's Winston Churchill. Others show the weary West Yorkshires nursing blistered feet after a 14-mile march on Welverdiend, south-west of Pretoria. They are, on the whole, intimate and largely unposed, reducing battle to a human scale.

Riall went on to serve with the West Yorkshires in the first world war, but he never wrote another line nor took another picture. He seemed to feel, Golley says, that the Boer war was the last semi-civilised conflict of his times. Such a meticulous chronicler as Riall was overwhelmed by the horror, inhumanity and wholesale slaughter of Flanders field. That war had to be left to the poets.



Brothers win apology for sex shop murder convictions

LORD Taylor of Goforth, the Lord Chief Justice, and two other Court of Appeal judges apologised yesterday to two Swansea brothers wrongly convicted six years ago for murder and said there was now overwhelming evidence to support their appeals. Lord Taylor said the evidence of police malpractice against Paul and Wayne Darvell was "thoroughly disquieting".

Neither of the brothers, released last month pending judgment, was in court yesterday to hear the full decision on their appeal. Sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder in June 1985 of Sandra Phillips, the manageress of a Swansea sex shop, the brothers became the centre of an extensive campaign that included the BBC's *Rough Justice* programme.

Yesterday Lord Taylor, sitting with Mr Justice Swinton Thomas and Mr Justice Judge, expressed "deep regret on behalf of the court and the public" for the lengthy plight of Wayne Darvell, 30, and Paul, 31. The Lord Chief Justice said: "The catalogue of criticisms and exposures and the fresh evidence which supports them constitute a formidable and overwhelming case for allowing these appeals."

Serious matters remained

The final appeal court hearing found formidable evidence for acquittal, writes Stewart Tendler

to be investigated and remedied, he said. The court could not comment further because South Wales police officers involved in the case had declined to say anything so far and others had been suspended. It would be "premature and prejudicial to the further enquiry" for the court to reach any conclusions additional to those expressed in clearing the brothers, Lord Taylor said. He paid tribute to those who had fought to free the brothers and to the Devon and Cornwall police team that uncovered fresh evidence.

Lord Taylor said the evidence at the trial in Swansea strangely lacked any material specifically connecting the brothers with the killing. Although Wayne Darvell was said to have confessed and Paul Darvell was claimed to have been seen with a petrol can on the morning of the killing — petrol was sprayed round the sex shop during the murder — there was no forensic evidence of blood staining or fibres linking the men to

the murder scene. Fresh evidence such as the tests by electrostatic documentary analysis, ESDa, on the notes of the police interview with Wayne Darvell showed that the judge, the jury and the Court of Appeal in 1987 had been seriously misled. The integrity of the original police investigation was now thrown into grave doubt, Lord Taylor said. The "devastating" implications of the evidence that suggested the confessions had been fabricated were obvious.

Lord Taylor said the most cogent and disturbing factor was that analysis of a bloody palm print found at the murder scene, showing that the print could not have been made by either brother, was not disclosed to the defence. "It should hardly need to be said that the function of fingerprint experts should comprise the exclusion of the innocent just as much as the implication of the guilty," Lord Taylor said.

There was also overwhelming evidence that Wayne Darvell was given to making false confessions. Lord Taylor stressed again that the trial judge and jury and the original appeal judges could in no way be criticised for failing to detect what had been revealed only by further police investigation and modern technology.

Anger as enquiry on injustice ends

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE judicial enquiry into the conviction of the Guildford four, the Woolwich bombing case and the Maguire seven is to be closed after three years without public hearings on the background to the Guildford or Woolwich prosecutions.

An announcement yesterday from the Home Office said Sir John May, a former Court of Appeal judge, had acted because he could no longer wait for the results of the prosecution of three Surrey officers charged with perverting the course of justice in the Guildford case if he was to meet the deadline for the report of the royal commission on the criminal justice system.

Alastair Logan, solicitor for Carole Richardson and Paul Armstrong, two of the Guildford four, said they had never been told what lay in police files for 15 years and now would never know. They had been content to rely on a public enquiry but that had been taken from them and Sir John would control what reached the public domain.

Christopher Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South and a campaigner against miscarriages of justice, said the closure was announced during the parliamentary recess when no questions could be asked. "The enquiry has effectively

been abandoned and this will save a number of prominent people the embarrassment of having to explain their roles in the Guildford and Woolwich convictions. It is a most unsatisfactory situation," he said.

The list of prominent people included senior police officers, lawyers and judges, said Mr Mullin.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gunman 'was shot lawfully'

A man shot dead by police after shooting an unarmed officer with a sawn-off shotgun was killed lawfully, an inquest ruled yesterday. The jury took 12 minutes to reach its verdict on the death of Barry Clutterham, 47, at Farnham All Saints, Suffolk, on February 27.

The inquest, at Bury, St Edmunds, was told that Clutterham shot Police Constable Keith Bottomley in his patrol car. He then hijacked a driving instructor's car. He was shot dead after being challenged by two police officers, Derek Pooley and Raymond Watts, who fired three shots each.

Gifts bring loss

Social security officials have stopped a £25 weekly allowance for six-year-old Nicholas Killen of Saltair, West Yorkshire, who is blind, because people sent him donations. The £3,000 was to pay for music and riding lessons and private tuition in the future.

Ship launched

The Royal Navy's newest warship, HMS *Montrose*, was launched yesterday in Glasgow by Edith Rikkind, wife of Malcolm Rikkind, the defence secretary. The 3,500-tonne vessel is one of five frigates being built for the navy by Yarrow Shipbuilders.

Youth jailed

David Willis, 17, of Ashford, West London, who robbed a local off-licence while masked and carrying an imitation pistol, was jailed for two years. The Old Bailey jury was told he wanted money for driving lessons.

Libel damages

Bobby Beasley, formerly a top jockey, won "substantial" libel damages in the High Court yesterday after being linked with a fictitious character in a book who took bribes to throw races. *Under Orders* by Mark Fitzgerald-Parker was published by Barrie & Jenkins.

Jury's overtime

The jury in the Brink's-Mat trial at the Old Bailey, which began on January 17, has agreed to work overtime in an effort to complete the case this month. Five people deny laundering money from a gold bullion robbery at Heathrow in 1983.

July a washout

Twice the average rainfall was recorded in parts of England and Wales last month, with spectacular storms in the South-East on July 20, the London Weather Centre said yesterday. But it remained dry in Scotland and Ulster.

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THE TIMES
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Sheffield
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0891 700 109 (Cambridge University)

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Oil firm offers to buy village of fear

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Texaco oil company yesterday offered to buy a Welsh village lying in the shadow of a giant refinery. All 101 people living in the tiny community are being offered the chance to move out permanently.

The firm sent every home in Rhoscrowther, Dyfed, a letter offering to buy each house in a deal that would cost more than £2 million. If the villagers accept the deal their community will become a ghost village of empty houses. Texaco made the offer amid mounting concern by villagers, who fear for their safety because the oil firm's Pembroke refinery is less than half a mile from their homes. The nearest homes are 300 metres from the border fence of the refinery. Protests from the villagers

have grown since there was an explosion and fire at the refinery six months ago. One villager said yesterday: "Nobody really wants to leave but nobody wants to live in the shadow of Texaco any more."

Texaco has offered to pay the market value for the homes and to pay all legal costs. Peter Prynn, landlord of the Rhoscrowther Inn, had led the campaign against Texaco. But yesterday he said: "I think this is an extremely generous offer. There are no strings attached and I will recommend that everyone accepts."

Texaco has made the offer in spite of assurances from the Health and Safety Executive that local people had nothing to fear. Derek Lloyd, a Texaco spokesman, said: "Despite all the reassurances

a number of residents continued to express their desire to move out of the village. In a spirit of good neighbourliness Texaco have written to the private owners saying we are prepared to buy their homes at a fair market value and pay all legal costs."

Phil Thompson of Texaco said: "There is no catch. We are not after the land or anything like that. It is simply showing that we can be good neighbours. If anyone wants to stay then that is fine. Those who want to move are welcome to and we will pick up the bill."

Some people wanted the whole village moved and relocated brick by brick but that just isn't feasible. This is the next best thing."

Texaco is also holding talks with South Pembrokeshire district council about offering financial help towards moving council tenants from their homes in the community. Villagers have been given until September to respond to the Texaco offer.

The village is a tight-knit community of 33 houses. Some families have lived there for more than 40 years and children have been brought up in Rhoscrowther and stayed on as adults in homes of their own.

Diane Watts, who has lived there 20 years, said: "It will be very sad when everyone moves away. It's the sense of belonging that you get used to. When you walk down the road you know the people you bump into for a chat. Within a few months that could be gone and Rhoscrowther will be a ghost town."

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Investigator forced to go as Delhi ministers are linked to fraud

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A SENIOR policeman investigating India's biggest financial scandal has applied for early retirement apparently in disgust at high-level attempts to prevent him investigating at least three government ministers thought to be implicated. The scandal, which has left the Bombay stock exchange in a shambles, has exposed some of India's dirtiest linen. And it is dirty indeed, even by the standards of a country beset with corruption at every level of government. It is now known that senior ministers have exploited their access to inside information to play the stock market.

Cover-ups are usually easy in this country of bribes, but every now and then a man like K. Madhavan comes along. As joint director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, he has uncovered a trail of fraud and deception that appears to lead to some of the most powerful politicians in the

country. He defied pressures to look the other way, and the system has thus squeezed him out.

Opposition leaders have demanded that the government give the true reasons for his resignation. "Is it a fact that the prime minister's office has instructed Madhavan not to put on record names of politicians and bureaucrats without its permission?" asked Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the former prime minister and Janata Dal leader. Margaret Alva, the personnel minister, denied there was any government interference in Mr Madhavan's work, and said his resignation had not yet been accepted.

Mr Madhavan clashed with the establishment once before, when he refused to soft-pedal an investigation into the Bofors scandal, which enriched many senior politicians and top bureaucrats. He was eventually removed from the enquiry and the guilty were never named.

This time, however, he would not go quietly and submitted his resignation papers on the ground that he should have been given full control of investigations into the 40 billion rupee (£750 million) financial scandal. The implication of his decision is that politicians and bureaucrats have rallied to each other's defence and blocked his enquiry.

The entire political system turns on bribes and connections, reinforced by a tight nexus with bureaucrats. Nevertheless, the scandal has unveiled some practices that are extraordinary even by Indian standards. It has been routine, for example, for some ministers to take a percentage of huge investments made by their ministries with select banks, mutual funds and private finance companies.

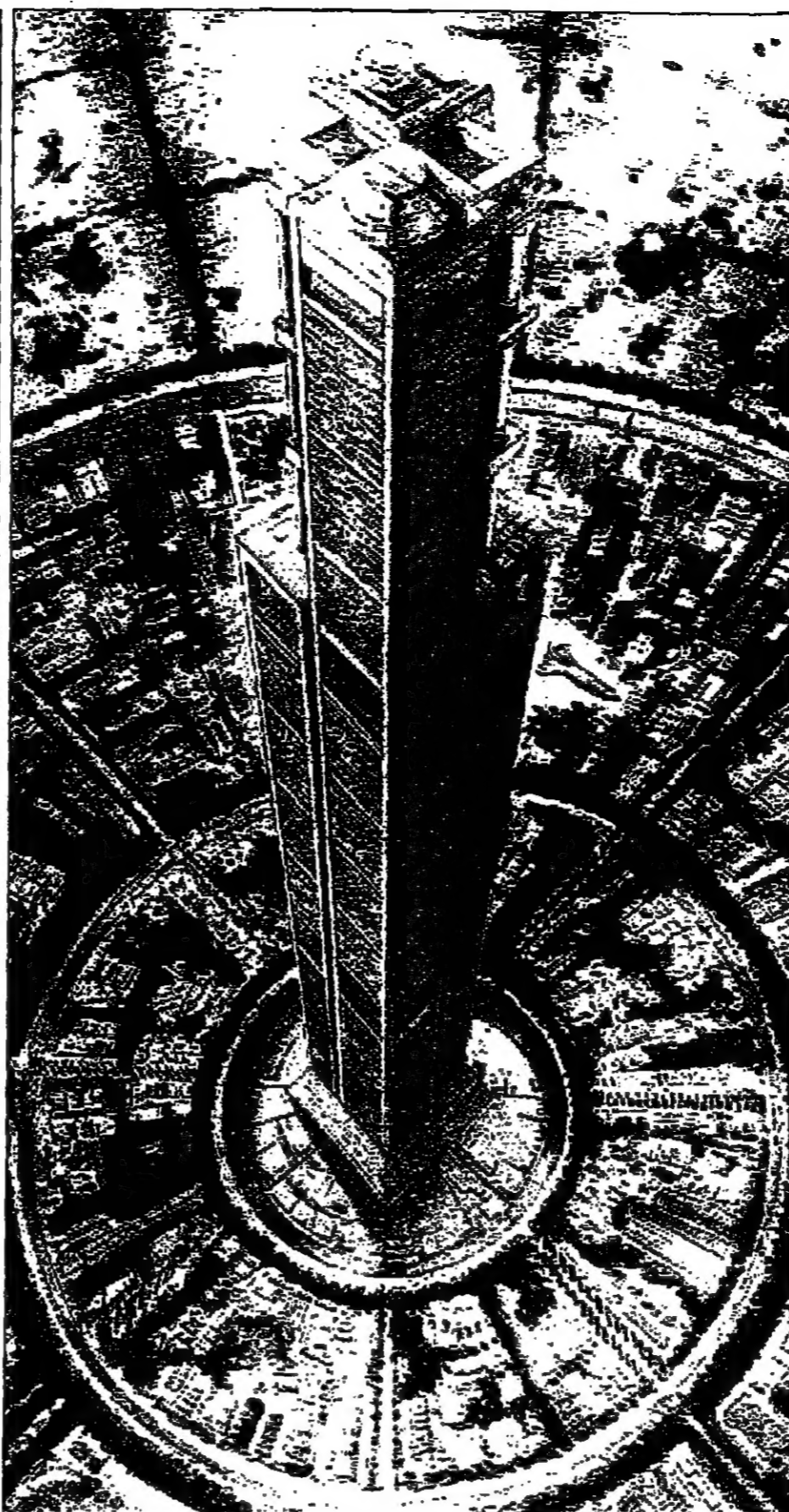
One minister has quit so far. P. Chidambaram resigned as commerce minister for dabbling in an investment company called Fairgrowth, which was heavily involved in the financial scandal. Yesterday police raided 26 Fairgrowth premises and seized documents which a government official said showed evidence of large-scale fraud.

The thought of the commerce minister being able to play the stock market has left foreign observers agog. He has denied any wrongdoing. But at least Mr Chidambaram did publicly admit his share dealings: other ministers are still refusing to do so, doubtless aware that they would be exposed as crooks. Aside from politicians and civil servants, the scandal touches many brokers and top officials of the Reserve Bank of India. The reputation of the nationalised banks, ever a tool for political exploitation, has been further sullied.

The brazen defiance of those implicated in the affair has revealed something of their sense of confidence and security gained from years of immunity. The Dalais and the Mehtas, two of India's richest families, who have denied any wrongdoing, have nevertheless been toppled as national heroes. Tax officials who approached Harshad Mehta earlier this year said he dismissed them with the comment: "I have no time to answer your questions. Tell me how much tax I have to pay and take a cheque." He now faces a string of charges.

The government's opponents are exploiting the scandal. Opposition leaders say that nine billion rupees paid to the authorities by Mr Mehta in a single day last May was raised for him by nationalised industries and other public-sector undertakings. If so, this would reveal the public sector to be more corrupt than anybody has ever guessed.

The Bombay stock exchange index rose from 1,300 in June last year to 4,300 nine months later, an increase that was probably manipulated with vast amounts of public money. The rise was certainly not justified by the parlous state of the Indian economy. Top stock exchange officials are coming under suspicion, leaving the entire system of banking, politics, government and business looking rotten.



High hopes: Japanese construction firms are planning to build the first super-skyscraper, confident that buildings 1,000m (3,300ft) high are a realistic and safe proposition. Such a structure would dwarf the Sears Building in Chicago, the world's tallest at 1,450ft, and be four times the height of Canary Wharf, Europe's tallest. Mitsui, the

Japanese construction firm, plans a circular city with a diameter of 8.7 miles and a central 2,970ft, 220-storey building. Construction of the project — known as "Mother" — is expected to take 17 years and cost \$300 billion. The central skyscraper, shown in the artist's sketch, above, would require conical foundations over 600ft deep. (AFP)

Somali exiles find haven in the bush

Refugees from Mogadishu's gun law are trying to rebuild their lives in Kenya. Sam Kiley writes from Utunge camp

MOGADISHU. Somalia's capital once had flourishing hospitals and schools, even a university. Now it has nothing. In a sense, indeed, the capital has moved to Utunge camp, nine miles outside Mombasa, Kenya's largest port.

The camp has everything that Mogadishu does not: an administration, schools, a hospital, security and, above all, respect for human life. There are no guns in the camp, which is supplied by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees aided by the Kenyan Red Cross.

The overwhelming majority of the camp's 25,000 residents were urban professional Somalis who fled the civil war. Many, like Dr Warsama Mohammed Aden, who runs the camp's health-worker system, escaped days before Mohamed Siad Barre, Somalia's long-serving dictator, was driven out of Mogadishu in January 1991.

"We saw the madness coming," Dr Warsama said yesterday during his lunch break from the Utunge hospital. He was sitting outside his mud hut surrounded by his well-fed children.

His colleagues in Somalia, who have been unable or unwilling to flee, have for the past 18 months been working for no pay and irregular food supplied by foreign agencies. Although there has been a ceasefire for four months between the zones of Mogadishu controlled by General Muhammad Farah Aidid and President Ali Mahdi Muhammad, victims of gun attacks, the result of the collapse of law and order, still flood in to hospitals every day.

The doctors live under the constant threat of execution by their patients or their patients' relatives, who will shoot a doctor for performing surgery without their permission. If a seriously injured patient in Mogadishu does not have his family with him, surgeons may let him die rather than risk their lives to save him.

In the camp, Dr Warsama's most serious cases are tuberculosis victims and his most worrying are those with diabetes — insulin is in short supply at Utunge. "We are bored,

depressed. But we will never go back," said he said.

Dr Warsama is one of 16 doctors practising in the camp. They are part of a dense gathering of Somalia's intelligentsia at Utunge, where there are more teachers than classrooms, at least 20 lecturers from the University of Mogadishu, as well as many accountants, lawyers and other professionals.

After many visits to Mogadishu and other towns in Somalia, it is strangely unnerving seeing large numbers of male teenagers milling in the quiet streets of the refugee camp happily chatting. In Mogadishu one quickly learns to avoid making eye contact with the thousands of gunmen prowling the streets.

Other refugee camps in Kenya are not so quiet. In Liboi, just inside the Kenyan border with Somalia, a nurse working for Médecins sans Frontières was recently raped by gunmen who looted the agency's compound. In the two refugee camps near Ifo, eastern Kenya, there is almost daily shooting and looting.

But in Utunge one sees a side of Somalia which is in danger of being forgotten. The proud Somalis were famed for their graciousness and hospitality and their yearning for education.

The residents of Utunge have set up a school for 1,277 primary pupils and as many secondary students. Teaching is done in two shifts and there is night school for those wanting to learn languages. Abdul Rehman Ahmedadi, a British overseas citizen, said: "Everybody wants to learn English. They do not want ever to go back to Somalia and want to go to the West where it is safe."

About a thousand Somali boat people are landing on the Kenyan coast every day. In Mombasa, where 600 arrived this week, the Kenyan authorities and the UN refugee commissioner are moving the new arrivals by bus further up the coast to new camps. Utunge has doubled in size in the past four months. A port official said the Kenyan navy had been ordered to intercept shows discovered heading for Mombasa and send them north to Lamu.

Vote plea by Briton rejected

Tokyo: A Briton married to a Japanese has lost his battle for compensation after being banned from voting in last month's elections for Japan's upper house. Alan Higgs, 46, said the Public Office Election Law denying a vote to permanent foreign residents contravened the constitution and demanded 1 million yen (£4,000) in compensation.

Mr Higgs maintained that, since permanent residents paid taxes and carried out the other duties of citizenship, they should be allowed to vote. But the Osaka high court yesterday rejected his suit. "Only Japanese people are entitled to vote," the judge said. (Reuters)

Poachers shot

Harare: Three Zambian poachers in Hwange national park, western Zimbabwe, died in a gun battle with paramilitary rangers who have been deterring rhinos in an attempt to make them less attractive and valuable targets for poaching. (AP)

Breast is best

Geneva: A worldwide campaign by the World Health Organisation and Unicef next week aims to promote breastfeeding, particularly in the Third World, as not just beneficial but in many cases life-saving. (Reuters)

Amnesty called

Manila: The Philippines Congress has approved an amnesty for 4,485 former communist guerrillas and Muslim secessionists and has endorsed legalisation of the banned Communist party. (AFP)

City paralysed

Lomé: The Togolese capital was paralysed by a 24-hour strike called by an opposition alliance to protest at the murder of Tavi Amornin, an opposition politician. (AFP)

Mutiny ends

Maputo: A two-day mutiny by 150 Mozambican troops of the British-trained Nyanga commando battalion ended after they received three months' back pay. (AFP)

Cyrus Vance ends peace mission

UN expected to widen plans for South Africa monitors

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

NEW proposals for international participation in monitoring the violence in South African townships are expected as a result of the visit to the country by Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, which ended yesterday. Some of his suggestions may already have been overtaken by the arrival of eleven "instant monitors" rounded up by the United Nations at the request of the African National Congress.



Boutros Ghali: envoy sent to gather facts

gress to watch over next week's intensification of its mass action campaign.

Mr Vance, 75, former United States Secretary of State, was appointed by Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, following the unanimous approval of resolution 765 by the UN Security Council, and has spent the past ten days meeting political leaders from across the whole South African spectrum, from the far right Boerestaar party to the unreconstructed Stalinists of the South African Communist Party.

He spent yesterday meeting business leaders and the editors of South African newspapers. He also spent some time with Anthony Coker, the chairman of the National Peace Secretariat, which was set up under the national peace accord signed by the government and the principal parties last September.

Mr Vance has given little away about the contents of his

report to the secretary-general, but after meeting President de Klerk for the second time he suggested on the steps of the Union building that he will propose the enhanced use of existing structures within South Africa.

On Thursday he met chairmen of the regional dispute resolution committees, established under the National Peace Secretariat. The most likely way of involving overseas observers with the peace process in South Africa would be to attach them either to these regional committees or to the local dispute resolution committees which they supervise. The job of the local committees is to resolve violent conflict in a community through mediation and negotiation. Twenty-nine of them have been set up around the country so far.

It is expected that the monitors arriving this weekend will also be attached to the regional or local peace committees.

Traffic laws get Indonesians on the march

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Thousands of Indonesians demonstrated in the ancient capital of Yogyakarta on Thursday against new traffic laws. Among other things the new law sets fines equivalent to the average annual income for not wearing a seat belt.

A police spokesman in the central Javanese city said the protest was peaceful and nobody was detained. About 5,000 people took part in a march to the local parliament, he said. But some newspapers put the figure at more than 10,000.

Failure to wear a seat belt is punishable by one month in prison or a fine of one million rupiah (£258), which is marginally less than Indonesia's average annual income. Those caught driving

without a licence can be jailed for six months or fined up to six million rupiah.

The laws, effective from September, have been widely criticised as grossly unfair and more likely to encourage traffic police to extort larger bribes than bring discipline to chaotic city streets. Traffic misdemeanours are usually settled by paying a modest on-the-spot fine to police.

Meanwhile, Bangkok, notorious for having the world's worst traffic, is breaking new records this week for the longest, slowest, most frustrating jams. City officials said yesterday that conditions would worsen in the next few days.

On Wednesday the so-called rush hour lasted until past midnight for some commuters.

A money dealer told international clients on Thursday: "The hottest topic this morning is not the dollar or politics but the big T — Bangkok has probably set another world record for a traffic jam. The average commute time last night was five hours. My brain is still sleeping."

Heavy rain was blamed for the confusion. Offices and schools reported many workers and pupils stayed at home on Thursday after Wednesday's jam.

The Nation Review newspaper said some children were stranded in schools until after midnight and school minibuses did not get pupils home until the early hours. The international airport was in turmoil, with some flights delayed to await the arrival of passengers and others taking off without anyone aboard.

One radio announcer called on people to avoid Sukhumvit Road because "people are sleeping in their cars". Another said: "Prepare for a crisis by bringing along food, water and toilet bowls." The weather bureau said more storms were approaching and the city drainage system could not cope.

The only people smiling were likely to be taxi drivers, who were said to be doubling fares, and taxi motorcyclists, often avoided by many because of their death-defying driving habits but now in demand for their ability to weave through traffic.

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Britain finds itself sliding nearer to the Community headline



Christopheresen: told Britain to stay in ERM

BRITAIN, locked in battle with the European Commission over its budgetary rebate, has been told that it may soon qualify for a rebate of another kind — assistance as one of the EC's poorer countries.

A slide into poverty relative to its European Community partners could entitle Britain to funds designed to help poor EC states catch up with their richer neighbours, the Commission said. But Henning Christopheresen, the budget commissioner, told the government that if it applied for any development funds, at present earmarked for Ireland, Portugal, Greece and Spain, then it could expect little sympathy from Brussels over a contributions rebate.

Mr Christopheresen warned

the government against heeding the advice of Euro-sceptics intent on leaving the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System. "If you leave the system because you want to let your currency depreciate it won't lower interest rates. You will have to pay a risk premium on the markets, and that will lead to higher rates of interest," he said.

Britain's slide-towards the EC headline is highlighted by Commission figures that show that in 1985 the average income per citizen in the country was 103.1 per cent of the Community average, but by earlier this year it had slipped to 94.5 per cent. To qualify for the new "cohesion fund", inspired by Jacques Delors, the Commission pres-

If current trends continue, Britain could be eligible for cash granted to poor states, funded by the EC budgetary increases it opposes. Tom Walker writes from Brussels

dent, nations must show that their average income per citizen is less than 90 per cent.

Ironically, while the government has been opposed to the increase in the EC budget on which M Delors predicated the fund, if per capita income maintains its slide of 1.2 per cent a year in Britain relative to the EC average, then the country will breach the Commission threshold in less than four years. Mr Christopheresen said he did not expect that the slide would continue in such

dramatic fashion, adding that any new money Britain won from EC coffers "would be deducted from the rebate".

British officials in Brussels played down the gloomy forecast. "One thing that one can genuinely say is that one can't extrapolate trends over the next four years," said one.

The Commission envisages that the cohesion fund will channel an extra £7 billion into the poor EC states between 1993 and 1997. If approved by finance minis-

ters, the fund will make payments of just over £1 billion next year, rising to £1.75 billion in 1997. Mr Christopheresen said that nations would be disqualified from receiving money if it was proved that they were making no attempt to follow Commission-approved plans to bring their economies into line with those of the rest of Europe. The Danish commissioner denied that stopping funds would leave southern Europe dotted with unfinished infrastructure projects. "We will make commitments to cover projects," he said. "You won't find half-built bridges."

Swedish application: Frans Andriessen, the Community's external relations commissioner, yesterday said he saw

"no insurmountable problems" with Sweden's application to join the EC.

Although no formal accession talks with EC applicants can start until the Maastricht treaty has been ratified, the Commission has pushed ahead with a 91-page opinion on the Swedish case. Brussels believes much of the essential groundwork can be done while the problem of bringing Denmark round to the provisions of Maastricht is resolved. A new EC budget also has to be agreed before any talks.

"We work on the assumption that these two conditions can be met and that negotiations can kick off early in 1993," said Mr Andriessen. He refused to predict when Sweden would join the EC.

Talk of 1995 was "too optimistic", he said.

The Dutch commissioner said the problem of Sweden's traditional neutrality could be overcome, but Stockholm would have to sign up to the ideals of Maastricht, including the goal of a common foreign and security policy. In Sweden this notion was questioned yesterday by Ulf Dinkelspiel, the foreign relations minister. "Defence is still an open issue in the EC and the Commission can't demand from Sweden more than it demands from its own members," he said.

Mr Andriessen also noted the problems of integrating Sweden's heavily subsidised farmers into the common agricultural policy.

Far right challenge could help liberals

Tudjman faces close run in Croatia poll

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

THOUSANDS raised their arms in Nazi salutes as Croatia's extreme right-wing leader, Dobroslav Paraga, held his final election rally in Zagreb. Mr Paraga's black-shirted militiamen have earned a reputation for courage and brutality in battle, but his party will not win tomorrow's presidential and general elections. However, by luring disillusioned nationalists from Croatia's ruling party, he could precipitate the fall of President Tudjman.

Dr Tudjman, a former communist general who came to power in 1990 on a Croatian nationalist ticket, is hoping to profit from respect as the man who steered the former Yugoslav republic to statehood. However, the opposition say he also presided over the loss of up to a third of Croatian territory to Serb separatists.

Polls are unreliable but in recent days Dr Tudjman has

consistently been leading the field with some 37 per cent. He needs 50 per cent plus one vote to win the presidential election outright, so a second round seems inevitable. A poll in yesterday's *Stobodna Dalmacija* newspaper predicted that in a close run-off Dr Tudjman would lose to the Croatian Social Liberal party leader, Drazen Budisa.

Mr Budisa was a minister in a coalition cabinet formed by Dr Tudjman in the darkest days of the Croatian war last year. He resigned in February in protest at the president's failure to consult his cabinet over the peace plan that has led to the deployment of United Nations peacekeepers in Serb-held enclaves of Croatia. His team includes Zlatko Kramaric, the mayor of Osijek, who has impeccable liberal credentials and is perhaps one of the few Croats that

Serbs would trust if ever talks on the future of the Serb-held territories begin.

The former Croatian communist leader, Savka Dabčević-Kucar, is also leading a high-profile campaign but is not expected to do well. A leader of the nationalist "Croatian Spring" of 1971, her campaign was dismissed by one analyst who said she was asking Croats to back her "because she was right in 1971".

The central issues in the elections are the future of United Nations peacekeepers in Croatia and the personality of Dr Tudjman. The mainstream opposition accuses Dr Tudjman of autocratic tendencies, presiding over a corrupt administration and of attempting to curb the freedom of the press.

Dr Tudjman and his ruling Croatian Democratic Union argue that the war is over — and won. The opposition claims that, on the contrary, the president has allowed Serbs in their enclaves to consolidate their gains under UN protection, thus preventing the return of refugees and Croatian authority.

The continuing expulsion of Croats from UN-held territories bodes ill for the ruling party but the dynamism of the houses of Serbs who have fled Croatia is not an election issue, nor is the economy.

A strong sub-theme of the campaign is Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dr Tudjman's support for ethnic "cantons" in the republic is seen as support for the *de facto* partition. Mr Budisa and Mr Dabčević-Kucar favour a hands-off policy. Mr Paraga, whose party could win up to 15 per cent of parliamentary seats, advocates a greater Croatia including not just all of Bosnia-Herzegovina but also parts of present Serbia.

Tomorrow's poll has plainly been ill-prepared and could run into serious problems. Refugees will vote for "candidates-in-exile" while no one is certain how many are eligible to vote abroad. Further confusion has been raised by the agreement on dual citizenship between Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, which raises the prospect of confusion if thousands of nationalist Herzegovinian Croats attempt to vote.

Sanjarevo: Five Ukrainian United Nations peacekeepers were wounded, two seriously, near Sarajevo during intensive bombardments yesterday, when the anti-aircraft radar post where they were working was attacked. The incident occurred around midday after the airport had been forced to close temporarily. (AFP)

Diary, page 10
Letters, page 11



Tearful wait: a weeping Muslim from the north hugs her child in a holding centre at Posusje, eastern Bosnia, as they wait for passage to a safe country

Charlemagne canal opens 12 centuries late

One of the world's largest engineering projects is finally complete. Ian Murray writes from Bonn

IN FIELDS outside the medieval Bavarian town of Beilngries yesterday two mechanical shovels finished a job that Charlemagne began 12 centuries ago. As brass bands played for the crowds, the diggers cut through the remaining earth dykes to flood the last stretch of a 2,200-mile waterway system linking Rotterdam to Sulina in Romania.

Built at a cost of DM7.8 billion (£2.7 billion), the controversial waterway opened up by this last stretch of the Rhine-Main-Danube canal runs through 15 countries and will enable barges carrying up to 3,300 tonnes of cargo to travel from the North Sea to the Black Sea. Its enemies have called it the stupidest building project since the Tower of Babel, but the 70-year-old government-owned company responsible for seeing the project through claims it represents the realisation of a European dream.

Charlemagne's version of the dream in 793 was to open up a route for his battle fleet through the heart of Europe. To achieve this he set 6,000 men to work carving a great ditch to link the Altmühl River to the main river systems. The huge project bogged down in rain and mud, forcing him eventually to abandon it, although the site of the Fossa Carolina remains as impressive evidence of hard work and engineering skill.

The idea was taken up again just after the first world war. The German government joined forces with the states of Baden and Bavaria in 1921 to form a company to build a 425-mile canal between Aschaffenburg, on the Main, to Passau, on the Danube. Money dried up in the great depression and the Nazis were uninterested. Work was not resumed until 1960.

By 1979, however, the Social Democrat-led coalition wanted to pull out of the project, which by then was costing DM240 million a year and provoking an increasing outcry from environmentalists. But, after he became chancellor in 1982, Helmut Kohl came under pressure from his allies, the Bavarian-based Christian Social Union, to press ahead with the scheme.

The canal is one of the

largest civil engineering projects ever undertaken. Between Mainz and Passau it rises and falls over 8 steps, reaching a height of 1,300 feet as it crosses the Swabian Alps south of Nuremberg. In places it is carried over valleys, roads and rivers in its own 60-yard-wide trough.

Charlemagne: bogged down by rain and mud

The marriage appeared to drift apart during the 1970s. But the collapse of the party and state they both treasured seemed to bring the couple back together and she was at his side throughout the humiliations of 1989. It is she who fought the long battle with the Chilean authorities to be allowed to stay in the embassy, using her friendship with the ambassador's wife from the years when the Chilean couple had been given asylum from General Pinochet in East Berlin.

Her husband looks frail and worn, but her spirit appears unbroken. As she left Moscow airport for Chile on Thursday, the story glint in her eye was undimmed. She swept past reporters contemptuously and ignored Russian officials.

She later arrived in Santiago where she was due to join her daughter, who is married to a Santiago diplomat. It is unlikely that she will return voluntarily to Germany.

A woman of iron constitution, she withstood the pressures of the last two years better than her husband. In his rare television interviews from Moscow, he was often prompted by his wife, who insisted on being present.

With the couple's separation ends an alliance which began in the first days of the German Democratic Republic and survived Herr Honecker's rise to power, rule, decline and exile.

She was much more unpopular than her mild-mannered husband, excusing the aggression he lacked. The daughter of a cobbler from Halle, she was a fervent young communist when she met Herr Honecker in 1949 in her capacity as the youngest delegate to the Free German Youth movement in the new East German parliament. Herr Honecker left his second wife, Edith Baumann, the Social Democrat, for Margot, and the two had their first of two daughters in 1951 and married two years later.

The marriage benefited her career and she became the only woman minister, gaining the education portfolio in 1963, by which time he was general secretary. Her zealotry on education and youth affairs was unsurpassed.

She insisted on military training in schools and intensified the ideological training of the under-fives in the 1970s, which worried parents when children came home from kindergarten telling tales of evil fascists lurking behind the Berlin Wall. As late as 1989, she enjoined young East Germans to defend socialism "with a gun in your hands, if need be", and mocked teenagers who joined the church peace movements instead of the Free German Youth.

US offers new peace

Bosnian war marks children for life

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN SARAJEVO

KEMAL Karic lies back in his cot in the children's ward at Sarajevo's Kosovo hospital and gurgles happily as a doctor checks on his progress. At first glance the four-month-old, brown-haired boy seems much like any other baby, until you notice that one leg in his blue-and-white romper suit hangs horribly slack.

As the doctor carefully undresses Kemal, it is soon clear why — his right leg has been blown off below the knee by the mortar that killed his mother, 26. The stump sticks in the air, covered by an elaborate dressing on a wooden splint. Doctors said Kemal is the youngest amputee of the Bosnian war.

He is maimed for life, but should come through, said Dr Salahudin Dizdarevic, chief of the hospital's orthopedic clinic. "The wound was very clean, and he will recover as much as any child could when he loses a leg."

The casualties of war are everywhere at the hospital. A police car hurtles past the sandbagged entrance, where armed men guard against attack. The car doubles as an *ad hoc* ambulance and a bloodstained casualty can be seen through the window. The crack and rattle of gun and shell fire sporadically echoes around the drab corridors, although the hospital has not been hit recently.

But it is the children's wards that are the most heart-rending. Decorated with childish

drawings, they are home to the most innocent victims. In one room doctors lift up a teenage boy's legs. He does not even grimace as the staff examine the steel rods and bolts that hold them together. Next door is Amir Avdic, 8. After two months at the hospital, recovering from the loss of a leg, he is going home and will be evacuated to Denmark. "I was playing football outside my house when a mortar landed," he said. "It killed my friend, Edo."

Many fear the long-term psychological effects on Bosnia's children, even those who will recover physically. "No generation should have to go through this," Dr Dizdarevic said. "Not just those who have been terribly wounded, but the children who have seen and heard too much."

For now the hospital could manage with medical aid and equipment arriving through the air and land relief corridor. The difficulty was lack of fresh food. "The children can't grow up normally because they are not getting enough vitamins. We have cases of anaemia and scurvy because of their poor diet," he said.

UN officials have ruled out a mass airlift of sick and wounded children. The answer, Dr Dizdarevic said, was to stop the war in Bosnia. "The children and civilians are innocent victims. They are not involved in this dirty war or in politics. Muslims, Serbs and Croats, they are all innocent."

Vegetarians confuse hungry Muscovites

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S confused experience of Western ways yesterday entered a new phase. Having been subjected to a wave of pornography, evangelism and fast food, Moscow's regular hamburger eaters encountered a new phenomenon: animal rights activists.

The American group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals staged a one-hour demonstration outside the Moscow branch of the McDonald's hamburger chain in Tverskaya Street. There was not an easy task.

The idea of vegetarianism is utterly incomprehensible to most Russians, who have enough trouble finding nutritious food without cross-

ing meat off their shopping lists. Not only is it central to almost every Russian's diet, but in some republics such as Ukraine, thick white slices of *salo* (pigfat) are considered a traditional delicacy. The fat is eaten with pickled gherkins, peppers and garlic in winter to top up energy levels when fresh food is difficult to find or simply too expensive.

Undaunted, a dozen American protesters, including a man claiming to be a reincarnation of Leo Tolstoy, did what they could to deter aficionados of McDonald's from chewing their "Big Macs", as the offending articles are known here. "Mr Tolstoy", a 16-year-old business student named Basil,

dressed in a 19th-century *telogreyka* (padded coat) and sporting a fake silver beard, argued with passers-by while holding a placard announcing in English and Russian: "Tolstoy says: forget meat, stay with wheat."

Dan Mathews, the group's organiser in Moscow, brought with him 100 per cent all-American veggie burgers. Unfortunately, most were scooped up immediately by beggar children and were re-sold on street corners within minutes.

The reaction of Russians ranged from puzzlement to sarcasm. Yes, said some, the protesters were wonderful people; yes, vegetarianism is an excellent idea and yes, they would continue to eat

meat. Vladimir Sederov, 62, agreed that eating beef may be bad but said it was so difficult to buy good meat that he would continue eating McDonald's veggie burgers (there is no "h" in Russian) three times a week. Others were blunter. "I like meat and I am not interested in animal rights," agreed Luba and Sergei Ivanov, a pair of Moscow yuppies.

The teenagers who make their living by jumping the 30-minute McDonald's queue for a 600 rouble tip treated the activists with contempt. Not surprisingly, they did not feel unduly threatened by the potential loss to their livelihood that a wave of vegetarianism might cause.

Italy sends secret agents into war against Mafia

FROM REUTER IN ROME

THE Italian government appointed its top anti-Mafia intelligence yesterday as it prepared to throw secret agents into the battle against organised crime.

Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, called for agents to be drafted in after two leading Sicilian judges, Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, were blown up in Palermo, the island's capital. Secret agents were no longer needed to combat the former Soviet KGB and should be used to infiltrate Italian organised crime instead, he said on Tuesday.

Sicilian-born Angelo Finocchiaro, Italy's anti-Mafia high commissioner since August 1991, was appointed head of civilian intelligence,

an official statement said. Signor Finocchiaro, 62, was civil governor in Palermo when the Italian state dealt its most powerful blow to the Mafia, a mass trial of some 350 gangsters in 1987.

Italy has a separate military intelligence branch. Its head was also dismissed and replaced by General Cesare Puoti. Intelligence chiefs had been widely blamed for failing to prevent Judge Borsellino's killing, despite warnings from a Mafia informer and the judge himself that his life was in danger. Paramilitary police intelligence said, in a secret report days before Judge Borsellino was killed, that a large consignment of explosives had arrived in Sicily and that it was destined for the judge.

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Lucky escape: the TWA jet after it burst into flames at New York's Kennedy airport. Passengers and crew were all rescued

200 are feared lost in air crashes

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 200 people were feared dead in two plane crashes in China and Nepal yesterday, just a day after nearly 300 people escaped from a blazing jet at Kennedy airport in New York.

A Thai Airways International jetliner carrying 113 people, some tourists, slammed into a mountain in the forested Himalayan foothills in heavy rain as it prepared to land. Airport officials said there was little chance of survivors. Two Britons were reported to have been on the plane.

A Yak-42 airliner carrying 116 passengers and 10 crew members crashed on takeoff from Nanjing airport in east China, killing 100 of those on board, the Xinhua News Agency reported. It said the 26 other people on board the flight, from Nanjing city in Jiangsu province to Xiamen city in southeast China's Fujian province, were injured and rescue operations were still continuing.

In Nepal army searchers found the wreckage of the Airbus A310-300 in the remote Palung Valley about 50 miles south of Kathmandu, a three-hour walk from the nearest road. Nagendra Ghimire, the deputy manager of the airport, said:

All 292 people on board a TWA jet escaped safely from a runway at Kennedy airport just minutes before a fire caused by a burning engine gutted the rear half of the plane. At least 55 people suffered minor injuries as they escaped late on Thursday.

The Lockheed L-1011 bound for San Francisco caught fire as it sped down the runway. The takeoff was aborted, causing the plane to veer off the runway and crash through a barrier. Passengers escaped from the front four exits by sliding down emergency chutes.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known. A port authority police source said that it appeared a fuel line in the tail section of the plane may have ruptured. Yesterday several dozen rescue vehicles ringed the runway where the crash occurred and large air bags were used to stabilize the charred jet as crews unloaded fuel.

Clinton defence policies come under attack

Bush recaptures taste for a fight

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush, stung by the storm of Republican criticism at the way his re-election campaign is going, has started to go on the offensive. Showing signs of his old fighting spirit, Mr Bush launched in California a well-directed attack on the spending plans of his Democratic rival.

Mr Bush ridiculed Bill Clinton's defence and foreign policies, claiming that they would cost America one million jobs. He accused his rival of advocating "reckless" cuts in the military budget that would be wasted on Democrat schemes — "beating swords into pork barrels," he joked in the defence industry's heartland of southern California.

But despite Mr Bush's new-found bellicosity, the infighting in the Grand Old Party continued unabated yesterday. Moderate Republican congressmen retaliated against the radical conservative Republicans who have argued that Mr Bush should abandon his attempt for a second term. "The enemy of

the president is not principally the Democrats. The enemy is within, and it's from the right," according to Sherwood Boehlert, a congressman from New York. Other moderates joined in the assault, arguing that the right wing's social policies were alienating voters and pushing the party into minority positions.

The moderates revived their criticism of Vice-President Dan Quayle. "I certainly see the vice-president as an anchor on the campaign that's keeping it from moving forward," said Representative Bill Green.

The infighting received further stimulus yesterday when it emerged that Milton Friedman, the guru of free-market economics and an icon of the conservatives, has turned on the Bush ticket. In an interview to be published in *Forbes* magazine next month, Mr Friedman says: "The Bush presidency has been very close to disaster."

President Bush has not come under attack from any

leading Republicans. But the public criticism of him by conservative thinkers based in Washington think-tanks and in lobbying groups has served to illustrate the level of despondency in the Republican party. Much of the current squabbling in the party is part of an effort by Republican groups to build up alibis for themselves in the event of a Bush defeat.

Mr Bush's performance in his two-day campaign tour of Texas and California will go some way in calming the party's anxieties. The president seemed to come alive. The delivery of his speeches was more confident than for many weeks. The attack on Mr Clinton was well-suited to its audience, a group of defence workers.

Mr Bush also seemed to enjoy himself, particularly in a passage criticising Mr Clinton's nomination acceptance speech at the Democrat convention two weeks ago. The president mocked his Democrat opponent for devoting only "one minute, 141 words"

of the acceptance speech to national security. "And if you blinked or had to do something else, or even heated up a ham-and-cheese sandwich in the microwave, you missed the entire part," he said.

The Bush campaign managers were clearly relieved at the president's sharp performance. But they had no answer to the question of why Mr Bush had taken two weeks before responding to Mr Clinton's acceptance speech.

According to some California Republicans, Mr Bush's tour of the state is far too late. "He's in deep trouble in California," said Steven Merksamer, who chaired the 1988 Bush campaign strategy committee in the state.

Earlier this week, an opinion poll in California gave Mr Clinton a 34 per cent lead over Mr Bush, the biggest lead ever recorded by a presidential nominee in the Golden State. California Republicans say that Mr Bush can turn things around in the state but that it will be an uphill and tough

struggle. Bush-Quayle '92 campaign managers have told journalists they are almost ready to concede California to the Democrats, an unprecedented retreat from a state which commands a fifth of the electoral college's votes. The Democrats have not won the state since 1964.

Some of the president's campaign strategists argue that they should concentrate on winning Southern and Midwestern states, a combination that would give Mr Bush the necessary electoral college votes to secure a second term.

Mr Bush faces a double problem in the Golden State. He is rapidly losing the support of blue-collar voters and of middle-class conservatives. The latest dismal economic figures from the commerce department, showing that America's feeble recovery has slowed sharply, are hardly geared to persuading either group that their futures are safe with President Bush.

Leading article, page 11

US offers to host new peace round

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

AMERICA yesterday invited Middle East negotiators to resume peace talks in Washington on August 24, for what has been billed as the first round of substantive and continuous dialogue since the process began last year.

The invitations, made by America and its Russian co-sponsors, are likely to be accepted by Israel, Syria, Lebanon and the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, who have held several rounds of fruitless contacts since October's peace talks in Madrid.

James Baker, the US Secretary of State and the architect of the initiative, is hoping to achieve a breakthrough this time thanks largely to the policies of Israel's new left-wing coalition government. Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister, has pledged to begin the process of granting self-rule to the 1.8 million Palestinians in the occupied territories within six to nine months.

During his tour of the region in July, Mr Baker sounded hopeful that an initial agreement could be reached at the negotiating table where the parties have pledged to move on to matters of substance, after the procedural squabbles that marked encounters while the right-wing Likud government of Yitzhak Shamir ruled Israel.

Although Mr Rabin has already made some gestures, most importantly a decision to freeze all new construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, there are still concerns that the process could again be brought to a halt, this time through Arab

foot-dragging. Israel fears that the Palestinian delegates who are leading figures in the occupied territories, will be prevented from hard bargaining because of growing divisions within the society and pressure from outside, particularly from Syria and from Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which is banned from the talks.

Mr Arafat yesterday made what sounded like a conciliatory gesture to Israel when he gave a rare interview to an Israeli newspaper declaring that Arabs and Jews were "brothers" and offering to meet Mr Rabin. Asked by the Hebrew daily *Haaretz* what he would tell the Israeli leader, Mr Arafat answered: "Come let us make a just peace, for the sake of our children and your children." However, he added: "Peace is made with an enemy. The PLO is the main body of the Palestinian people and without it there will not be any peace. If they want a just and stable peace, they will have to turn to us."

Clifford Longley, page 10

UN ends vital Iraq searches

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has no plans to assert the organisation's authority in Iraq by accelerating weapons inspections there, despite the three-week delay in gaining access to the agriculture ministry in Baghdad.

Rolf Ekeus, the chief UN weapons inspector, said the most important searches in Iraq had already been concluded and all that remained was "marginal" information. "We are not looking for a confrontation or a humiliation of Iraq," he said on his return from Baghdad.

Since the debate over inspections of the agriculture ministry, US officials have suggested that the United Nations might increase the pace of inspections under the UN resolution that ended the Gulf war, which bans Iraq from possessing or developing weapons of mass destruction. Mr Ekeus said: "We are very happy to receive advice." But he added: "We will not go to any place to create a problem or to make a statement."

Robinson and Wonder bid Wells soulful farewell in Hollywood

Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson performed before hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Mary Wells, 49, the black rhythm-and-blues singer who helped break the colour barrier in American music.

Wells, whose million-selling hit *My Guy* was a hit in the 1960s, died last Sunday from throat cancer. She lost her Los Angeles home as her medical bills mounted. In her final days, her cancer treatment was paid for by the Washington-based Rhythm and Blues Foundation and donations from the singers Diana Ross, Rod Stewart, Bruce Springsteen and The Temptations.

Robinson performed a medley of Wells' biggest hits that drew tears from some among the 500 mourners who gathered for the service at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Hollywood Hills.

The Rev Jane Spahr, a lesbian minister, has been confirmed by a ten-member commission to oversee a Presbyterian congregation in Rochester, New York, despite the protests of

ten other churches in the state. She was confirmed by a 9-1 vote, though the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church declared in 1978 that homosexuality was "incompatible with Christian faith and life".

The comedy writer Ben Elton's best-selling novel *Stark* is to be made into a £2.6 million television mini-series as a joint production by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the BBC, the producers said in Sydney, with Elton playing the leading character.

New Zealand's indecent publications tribunal has ruled Friday that the right-to-die book *Final Exit*, by Derek Humphry, can be sold in the country.

The Bulgarian national bank governor, Todor Valev, 70, has withdrawn his resignation after allegations of corruption against him were rejected, but

said that he would retire at the end of the year.

Ravi Shankar, 72, India's star master who enriched the music of the Beatles, is to receive the Ramon Magsaysay award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, the award foundation said in Manila. The award is named after the former Philippine president who died in 1957.

Imelda Marcos, the former Philippine first lady, has yielded to her passion for shoes and spent £3,000 on six pairs made of crocodile skin during a mission in Hong Kong to recover the missing Marcos millions, a source close to her visiting group said.

Authorities have arrested two men hired to kill the Colombian justice minister, Andrés Barrantes, 39, one of the key figures in Colombia's battle with drug traffickers, security officials said in Bogotá.

Academics have another whack at Lizzie Borden

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

As the popular nursery rhyme puts it: "Lizzie Borden took an ax and gave her mother 40 whacks. When she saw what she had done She gave her father 41."

Or possibly not. Next Tuesday is the centenary of one of America's most famous murders, in which a Lizzie Borden, 32 and a spinster, allegedly took a hatchet to her father and stepmother in their family home, killing them both. She was acquitted after an investigation and trial which had all of America and much of Europe enthralled, but her guilt has ever since been taken for granted, thanks largely to the nursery rhyme recited whenever two or three American

children and a skipping rope get together.

Now Lizzie Borden is to have a second hearing. Four hundred American academics and amateur detectives are assembling to re-enact her trial at Fall River, Massachusetts, where the murders took place. At this first Lizzie Borden conference, some are expected to argue that she was innocent after all, while others will enter pleas of diminished responsibility for the reputed murders.

A new feminist critique of the incident suggests that Lizzie Borden may have been the victim of child abuse by Andrew Borden, her father, who was a wealthy and parsimonious businessman. At her trial, her motive was assumed to be greed and it

was alleged that she carried out the killings because she feared losing her inheritance to a stepmother she loathed.

Eileen McNamara, a professor of psychiatry at Brown University, claims that since the woman would eventually come into the inheritance and was materially spoiled by her father, a more psychological motive must be found for the killings. The brutality of the attack, she says, in which the murderer continued to chop at the victims long after they were dead, can be explained by the theory that Andrew Borden had subjected his daughter to prolonged sexual abuse.

That claim is supported by other academics who say that Andrew Borden's obsessive secrecy (the house was

festooned with chains and bolts and his bedroom was permanently locked) and his favouritism towards his younger daughter imply sexual guilt.

Contemporary descriptions of Lizzie Borden suggest a woman unlikely to commit murder simply out of greed. A Sunday-school teacher, she was an active member of just about every respectable organisation in Fall River. A pillar of the local community? Or exactly the sort of repressed (and possibly abused) woman who might suddenly snap and reach for a hatchet?

It took an all-male jury just an hour to find Lizzie Borden not guilty. The evidence was largely circumstantial, but

some said the men of Fall River simply could not contemplate hanging a woman. The *New York Times* thought the verdict brought "a certain relief to every right-minded man or woman who has followed the case".

Thousands did indeed follow the case at the time, and many thousands more since. After her trial Lizzie Borden moved away from the family home and lived expensively but quietly until her death in 1927. There was only one memorable incident, when the aging but still notorious Miss Borden was accused of shoplifting jewellery in a nearby town. The locals said they were not surprised. People kept a careful eye on Lizzie Borden, and they still do.



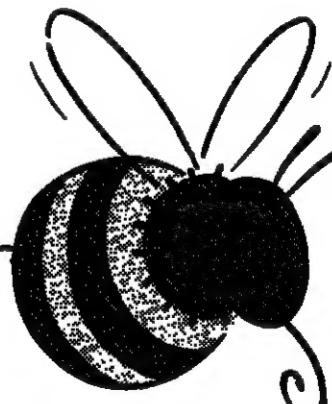
Arafat: conciliatory gesture to Israel

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Clifford Longley

Vatican recognition of Israel is long overdue

Since 1948, the Holy See's refusal to recognise the state of Israel has been a sustained piece of diplomatic cruelty. Though it will not beg for it, Israel has wanted that recognition keenly, as have leaders of many Jewish communities worldwide. The Vatican has had no good reason for withholding it. Many Roman Catholics have been dismayed by its obduracy. Countless papal diplomats all over the world have built their bridges with local Jewish leaders as best they can. In Britain, particular credit for this exercise should go to Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, Pronuncio to the Court of St James, who has been one of the British Jewish community's most conspicuous Christian allies.

At last it has been announced that the Holy See and Israel are to study any outstanding obstacles, with a view to removing them. They are all on one side: a Jewish government seems to have no more difficulty than many Muslim governments about recognising the Holy See. The news was warmly received among British Jews, not least because the status of Jerusalem is no longer regarded as an insuperable problem.

This particular diplomatic recognition matters so much to Israel and to the Jews of the diaspora for none of the usual reasons. The Holy See — the name by which the papacy is known in international law — can obviously offer none of the benefits of a military or economic relationship.

Rome is seen by most Jewish leaders as the key moral leader in the Christian world. In symbolic terms, recognition by the Vatican would be Christianity's Balfour Declaration. For reasons that may or may not be realistic, formal relations between the Holy See and the state and government of Israel seem to make it just that bit less likely, in Jewish eyes, that the Jews will ever again be driven out of Israel.

So why has the church held back? Diplomatic recognition does not mean dogmatic recognition: there is no implied consent to the doctrine of religious Zionism that the land of Israel belongs to the Jews by divine gift. Even China, long one of the staunchest allies of the Palestinian cause in world affairs, recognised Israel earlier this year. Russia did so last autumn. As Western countries have long demonstrated, international law offers both an adequate basis for recognition and also (if excuses are wanted) sufficient grounds for a refusal to recognise, such as lack of a permanent peace on Israel's borders.

Clearly the Vatican has been using these excuses. This has caused a suspicion of lingering anti-Semitism, or at least of the more subtle manifestation of that evil in the modern age: insufficient horror at the anti-Semitism of others, past and present. The Vatican's relationship with Jews is accident-prone and liable to more than its share of mutual misunderstanding.

The record is littered with ill-chosen words uttered here and there by the Pope in the course of his world travels. His outspoken criticism of the West's conduct of the Gulf war, and his eager acceptance of Saddam's linking of the Kuwait and Palestinian issues were only the latest chapter. As late as last June, the Pope, meeting Jewish representatives in Warsaw, again turned down their plea for the recognition of Israel, although he did tell them that the creation of the Israeli state was "an act of historical justice". This only made the refusal all the more baffling and wounding.

In practical terms, recognition may have some effect, for a significant minority of Palestinians are Christians, of whom probably a majority owe their spiritual allegiance to Rome. In relation to Israel, they are doubtless Palestinians first and Catholics second, but even so, diplomatic recognition would give them one less reason to fight, and one more to favour compromise.

But Palestinian influence cannot be allowed to be decisive in Rome. In 1965, unspecified Arab pressures were rather mysteriously held responsible for the dropping of the key phrase *de iure* (guilty of deicide) from the text of *Nostra Aetate*, the decree of the Second Vatican Council which repudiated anti-Semitism on religious grounds. The formula "condemning" anti-Semitism was also watered down (for similar reasons, it was said at the time), although the document is, nevertheless, a watershed in relations between Christians and Jews.

Both sides can now put all this behind them. What the relationship really needs to cement it, they must be thinking, is the personal touch: an official papal visit to Israel. It would be an significant step on the long journey to peace and justice in the Middle East. And on the journey to peace between religions.

Nigel Hawkes wonders how we will react if Nasa's latest mission finds signs of alien intelligence

Across an immense etheral gulf, minds that are to our minds as ours are to the beasts in the jungle, intellects vast, cool and unsympathetic regarded this earth with envious eyes and slowly and surely drew their plans against us.

They don't make radio programmes like Orson Welles's famous 1938 shocker any more. People hearing it rushed on to the street half-naked, cars raced aimlessly about and women screamed as Welles's urgent tones warned that Martians had invaded New Jersey and were slaughtering people with a heat-ray. Today's more cynical audience would know that Mars is uninhabitable, and might pause to question whether invaders of any intellect, never mind cool and vast, would choose to make landfall in New Jersey. But those were more innocent days.

The alarm caused by the Welles broadcast — an adaptation of H.G. Wells's *The War of the Worlds* — comes to mind because of the recent announce-

Hunting for little green men

ment by Nasa that it is about to begin the biggest-ever search for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. A total of \$100 million is to be spent over the next ten years on a comprehensive search of microwave frequencies for messages or for stray signals from space that would tell us we are not alone.

The arguments for believing that there may be other forms of life elsewhere are well-rehearsed. If life on Earth began spontaneously, or was helped on its way by organic molecules arriving from space, there is no reason to suppose it may not have happened somewhere else too. Scientific opinions differ as to what the odds against the emergence of life were, but even the longest odds have to be set against the fabulous number of stars in the heavens.

This calculation has inspired

more than 50 searches and a few false alarms. When pulsars were discovered at Cambridge in 1968, the regular beating of the signals emitted by this new class of stars suggested to some people that they might be a signal. But a better, simpler explanation was found, so the little men with aerials on their heads were quickly eliminated from the frame.

Some of the most interesting questions raised by such searches are psychological. How would we respond if we did find an alien intelligence? Almost certainly it would be more advanced than us, for it is less than a century since we started producing radio signals that others might detect. Other civilisations may have been doing the same for hundreds or thousands of years.

Back in 1960, when the first

simple searches began, the Brookings Institution in Washington produced a report that attempted to assess the impact of success. It concluded: "Anthropological files contain many examples of societies, sure of their place in the universe, which have disintegrated when they have had to associate with previously unfamiliar societies espousing different ideas others that survived such an experience usually did so by paying the price of changes in values and attitudes and behaviour."

In other words, success might make human beings the victims of a cultural assimilation in which our whole way of life would be swept away. This has happened often enough — it is still happening to primitive peoples in New Guinea and Amazonia — to make the suggestion more than frivolous.

The search also has intriguing religious implications, especially for Christians. If we are made in the likeness of God, and Christ's incarnation is unique to us, how should we regard alien intelligences? C.S. Lewis even suggested that the vast distances between solar systems were designed as quarantine, to prevent the spiritual infection of a fallen species from spreading.

Another problem is the agonising slowness of communication. Nasa is looking especially at stars that lie within 100 light years of our solar system, which is pretty close in astronomical terms. A message sent to one of these might prompt a response that could be read by our great grandchildren, which hardly represents a dynamic exchange of views. Physics appears to rule out any faster mode of communication, since the speed of light

and of radio waves is an absolute limitation. The same problem makes the prospect of interstellar travel improbable too. *Star Trek* notwithstanding.

The slow exchange of radio messages might, of course, be seen as a blessing, allowing us to accommodate ourselves more gradually to an altered role in the cosmic scheme of things. The Brookings report also argued that knowledge of an outside intelligence would revolutionise international relations, leading to greater unity on Earth as human beings responded to what would probably be seen as a threat.

Others have argued that science fiction has made us so familiar with the idea of space travel and alien intelligences that actually discovering them would be an anticlimax. A sensation that would soon wear off. To me this seems unlikely. Discovering that mankind is not unique would change things utterly and forever. But there is no immediate need to worry about an invasion of little green men.

The greatest show on earth

Forget all the noble ideals, the Olympics are a gaudy circus, says Charles Bremner in Barcelona

Glinting in the brilliant sunshine, dozens of shiny white or gun-metal-grey cars line up every morning at the yellow Mars company tent on the Barcelona quay. Theirs is the most precious cargo of the 25th games: the high sporting dignitaries, the corporate sponsors and their thousands of esteemed clients, who are lodging in the yachts and liners moored under the eyes of Columbus's great statue. They may be on the paunchy side, they tend to speak American and have little athletic bearing, but they deserve every bit of their air-conditioned comfort, for these are the people who brought the world the billion-dollar games.

Before you reach for your official Olympic pain-reliever (yes, there is one), I should explain that this is not another lament over the desecration of de Coubertin's spirit of amateurism. The baron, now fashionably decried as a hypocritical old Victorian racist, actually jumped the gun on sponsorship, saying that it was as unwise to declare an athlete a professional for accepting money as to call a sexton a pagan for being paid to take care of a church.

It is certainly true that these first games of the New World Order, with their gigantic organisation and their Olympic condom adverts, are light years from the days of the Bannisters and the Chataways. The chaps in baggy shorts sprinting around Cambridge quads would probably have had trouble accepting the spirit of friction-free swimsuits which shave a tenth of a second off a lap, and they would have balked at Leroy Burrell, the American sprinter who said last week: "We're not in this sport because we like it or we want to earn our way through school. We're in it to make money." They would not have thought much of the head of the Panamanian Olympic Committee,

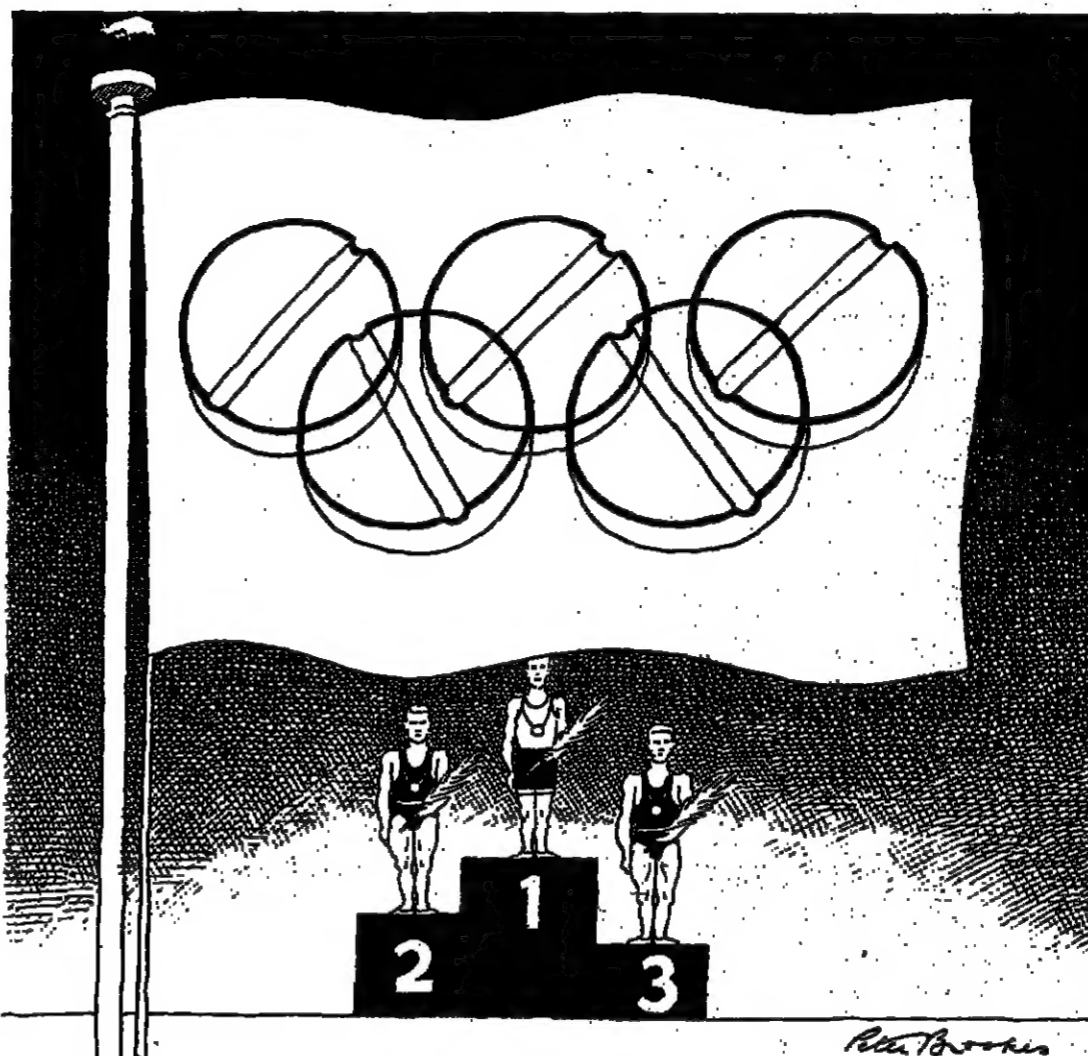
who was arrested this week on suspicion of ticket touting, and without question they would have been thunderstruck by the notion of Britons being sent home in apparent disgrace, bringing dishonour to the union flag. It was perhaps a sign of the continuing importance of honour in Britain that the incident has prompted such an outcry at home. The continental media has barely mentioned the affair.

But what really is the difference between running for the glory of one's nation state and doing so for a fat cheque and the fame of a clothing manufacturer? Coke and Pepsi may be engaged in a struggle for global soft-drink supremacy, but at least they are unlikely to draft their athletes into a shooting war.

The games were always about proving some philosophical or religious point, just as much in Greek times as they have been this century, and politics have always played a big part, as Juan Antonio Samaranch, the current and much criticised lord of the movement, keeps pointing out. In recent times, athletes were in the business of demonstrating the superiority of some ideological system. With the big exception of China, which still believes its pixie gymnasts prove the invincibility of socialism, this is no longer the case.

Now even nationality is becoming hard to define, what with celebrities such as Sergei Bubka, who pole-vaults for the Ukraine in the pay of the American Nike company, and has a home in Berlin. And there is certainly not much religion around the Montjuïc stadium, with the exception of the Iranian squad, a gloomy-looking bunch whose coaching has consisted primarily of explaining what women do really like sports.

So, with history ended and only the tribal politics of the Pyrenees much worrying the huge security force, the games are perhaps closer to celebrating the prowess of the individual



and the unity of mankind than any time this century.

David Coleman could not put it better than Pindar, the original sportsman of the fifth century BC, who said that man is but the dream of a shadow, "but when the gods direct a beam of light on him, he is enveloped in brilliance and his existence is sweet."

The gods have modern names in Barcelona (except for Mars and Nike), but their magic is everywhere in what amounts to the only universal rite of an increasingly pagan planet, or as Sr Samaranch defined it when welcoming the athletes, "the greatest festival of contemporary society". Baron de Coubertin

"would have been proud of you" he added. No one who was in the throng in the Ramblas, the stylish promenade of cafes and flower-sellers, when the Olympic torch was carried through at midnight on the eve of the games, could fail to share the feeling of living in one of those orgiastic ancient feasts when the populace lets its hair down.

Perhaps it would be easier to accept all the excesses of "sport" were it less in favour of a word which suggests the importance of entertainment. The games are, after all, now a big show for the global video family, which, even if it speaks in many languages, is bound by the same corporate logos, thrills

to the same superstars and knows a Lloyd Webber anthem when it hears one. Not by chance, the most prized trophy in Barcelona, after the autograph of one of the Dream Team, is a gilded lapel pin from NBC, which paid some £250 million into the Olympic kitty.

As the vast TV audiences and mega-money make clear, the games are giving the world the culture it wants, based on the same economic principles as a performance by Michael Jackson (who, incidentally, is due to stage a show in the Montjuïc stadium next month). Banishing the word "sport" might also speed the arrival of less noble but more spectacular disciplines

in place of those which fail to deliver the ratings. Hulk Hogan and his fellow show-wrestlers, for example, are guaranteed to excite viewers more than the Graeco-Roman variety.

It is hardly the athletes' fault if rock-star culture gives fair play a lower priority than the gladiatorial thrill of watching Magic Johnson and his buddies massacre a squad of skinny Angolan basketballers. Besides, the ungentelemanly manners of the millionaires athletes only serve to highlight the courage of the plucky and humble ones, such as Mirsaba Buric, the Bosnian sprinter who trained under sniper fire and lost her shoes to Serbian captors (who, she believes, may also have killed her brother).

Even those who deplore the games as a philistine spectacle attracting drugged-up money-grubbers must acknowledge that they do bring, with them some passing enlightenment. Thanks to these games, the world has paid homage to Spain, and Catalonia in particular. Tens of millions more people not only now recognise Javier Mariscal's disconcertingly Catalan mascot, Cobi, but have also been given a glimpse of Gaudi and Miro and a whiff of local mythology and music in that lavish opening ceremony — kitchy though it was.

The task now for Sr Samaranch and the organisers of the centennial games in Atlanta in 1996 is to find a way of rising "higher, faster, stronger", to top the Barcelona effort without losing control of the world's biggest roadshow. Money, however, will be no obstacle. The next four years are expected to bring in some \$3 billion worth of sponsorship.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

As Queen Victoria lay dying, a member of the royal household discussed the imminent event with Edward, then Prince of Wales. "I wonder if she will be happy in paradise?" he mused. "I don't know," said the prince. "She will have to walk behind the angels — and she won't like that."

Reports of paradise vary widely, from those eternal harps to Dante's *Beaudeker* account, which makes the company in the *Inferno* sound more fun. *L'amore che muove il sole e l'altre stelle* ("the love that moves the sun and the other stars") is one of the sources of the notion that paradise is non-stop *Top of the Pops*, because of the music of the spheres.

There's not the smallest orb which thou behold'st But in his motion like an angel sings.

Still quiring to the young-eyed cherubims.

The *Koran* gives its own version: "As for the righteous, they shall be lodged in peace together amidst gardens and fountains, arrayed in rich silk and fine brocade. Yes, and we shall wed them to dark-eyed houris." A houri is a paradisaical youth and beauty, whose virginity is renewable at pleasure, and who comes in quantity as the reward for every believer. It is safer down here to take no firm view of the place, but to wait and see, remembering that we are likely to have friends in both places. The reference in *The Koran* to gardens sets to the

root of a strange word, which is central to Western literature from Dante to Milton, and still harps powerfully today.

The first appearance of paradise in our Western world was in Xenophon's *Anabasis*, the story of the long march of Cyrus the Great against his elder brother Artaxerxes. He took with him a mercenary force of 10,000 Greeks, of whom Xenophon was one, and, by the end of his account — urged on by the equivalent of publicity lacks — a pretty damn important one. This was the dreadful jaunt in which the Greeks, fighting their way home through the mountains of Armenia, at last saw the Black Sea, and cried, *Thalassa, Thalassa* ("The Sea, The Sea"), a title that still has some resonance. Iris Murdoch won her Booker prize with it.

Anyway, at the beginning of the *Anabasis*, Xenophon scribbles: "There was the palace of Cyrus, and a great paradise full of wild animals, where he went hunting on horseback whenever he wanted to exercise himself and his horses." It is as certain as one can be in the muddy waters of etymology that Xenophon took the word from the Persian, and was showing off his linguistic credentials as an old dooper. If you break the word down to its Avestic or Old Persian roots, you get *pairi* (round about) (cf. Greek *peri*) + *dazea* a wall. What we have here is an enclosed park, as arranged by the Persian kings and nobles, stocked with game for bounding after and biting. Much like the

original purpose of St James's Park, or Richmond Park, though you are not allowed to let even your Jack Russell chase the deer or the tourists there these days.

After that, paradise became the general word for any garden or orchard, probably walled or fenced about to keep out Just William and any other thieves. It replaced the original classical Greek word for a garden, *kēpos*, as found in Alcibiades' orchard in the *Oedipus*. In hot countries, a place with trees giving shade and fruit, fenced about to keep out hot polio, becomes infinitely desirable, and literally paradisaical, paradisaic, paradisiac — oh forget it, there is no satisfactory adjective, just as there is no satisfactory candidate for paradise.

Paradise crops up passim in the Bible, both as garden and as a heavenly state of future bliss. For the former, you can take *Song of Solomon*: "A paradise enclosed is my sister, my spouse: a spring shut up, a fountain sealed." For the latter, Jesus says to the thief crucified next door to him: "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

In Glasgow, Paradise is the name given by Celtic supporters to the home ground of their team. The nearest they could get to heaven, I suppose, is clear that they recognised the original meaning of the word, from Xenophon, that paradise is always full of wild beasts. That is a Rangers remark. And if I have to shout for a Scottish football side, I go, doubtfully, for Ayr United or Brechin City Nil.

Rabbit punch

RICHARD ADAMS, the civil servant who made his reputation writing about rabbits, has just had his latest book turned down by several publishers. *Watership Down*, his first novel, sold in countries which have neither rabbits nor downs — the covers were illustrated with pictures of gerbils dancing on sand dunes — but none of his other books have matched his initial success.

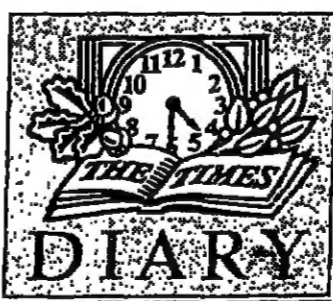
Watership Down was written 20 years ago, but Adams has not been idle in between times. He published one book a year in the mid-1970s, starting with *Shardik* in 1974. By the time he published his autobiography, *The Day Gone By*, in 1990 he had 17 books to his name.

The new one, which has taken him three years to write, is about folk songs and contains the music for about 50 original tunes. It is Adams's first literary rejection, and he admits to being a bit surprised. "I am disappointed, naturally," he says.

But he should not give up hope. Many publishers were proved wrong after rejecting *Watership Down*, and when Craig Brown first heard about it he remarked that he would rather read a book about civil servants written by a rabbit.

Women in arms

JOHN MAJOR — not one who usually incurs the wrath of women — has fallen foul of the British Federation of Women Graduates and the YWCA. They are up in arms about the shifting of the Women's National Commission from the cabinet office to the employment, ministry, and have



Established in 1969 by Harold Wilson, the commission, which has its own civil service secretariat of three women and two men, is one of the few quangos to have survived for nearly a quarter century. Margaret Thatcher was one of the first people to chair it.

Opponents of the move fear a decline in the importance of the organisation, which advises the government on issues affecting women. Perhaps a job for Lady Thatcher, wielding handbag?

Dickens's new novel

RENOWNED in Parliament for knowing how to pick an opportune moment, Geoffrey Dickens is publishing his new novel — provisionally entitled *Love on the Terrace* — despite it currently being in embryo form. There are no prizes for guessing the plot, and Dickens, who is writing the book long-hand, says he hopes it will hit the bookshelves by Christmas 1993. "My main character gets caught with his trousers down when the division bell rings. Some people started being very polite to me when word spread that I was writing the book. No one will be spared but I hope I've disguised the characters just enough to avoid a libel," he says.

Dickens, who started the book

years ago and who has a publisher lined up, claims he will expose the real goings on in the House of Commons. "What you see in the newspapers is just the tip of the iceberg. The Commons is an incredible place. Often it's on your own side — the people sitting behind you bursting with ambition and hopes — that you find your real enemies." When the book is eventually published, the member for Littleborough and Saddleworth may find he has a few more.

The oldest play in the world will have to wait a little longer for its revival. The 4,500-year-old Sumerian play, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, originally called *He Who Saw Everything*, was due to open tonight at the National Theatre Studio, but director Tim Supple has his hands full with a touring production of *Billy Liar*, so the British premiere has been postponed for a few months more.

Will the jokes still be topical in a few months?



Love thy neighbour

AS Paddy Ashdown flew into Bosnia with a plea for military intervention, a fellow politician, Lord Campbell of Croy, was appealing for practical help for the war's victims. Moved by the plight of

Lord Clark of Kempston have set up a fund to help what they describe as the greatest flood of refugees seen in Europe since the second world war.

Lord Campbell, who is president of the Anglo-Austrian Society, and Lord Clark, the organisation's chairman, are promoting *Nachbar in Not* (Neighbour in Need) in an attempt to help the refugees, 50,000 of whom have flooded into Austria in the last few months. The total number from the former Yugoslavia could exceed half a million, says Campbell. "There seems little prospect of the civil war ending, and the refugee situation may continue for months or longer. Help is urgently needed."

The cause is close to Campbell's heart. He was wounded and disabled in the second world war, and went on to be first secretary at the British embassy in Vienna. *Nachbar in Not* is already up and running in Austria, and 750,000 Austrians have contributed £7 million in the past seven weeks, allowing a thousand loads of supplies to be sent to the stricken areas. "That means that one out of every six adults has donated an average of £20," says Campbell, who is hoping that British citizens will be equally generous. Cheques made out to the Anglo-Austrian Refugee account should be sent to 46 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 1 9AU.

Welshmen travelling in their native land are being advised to do so with their passports. As part of its campaign for an independent Wales, the Welsh language press group *Cefn* is launching a passport stamp stating that the holder is a citizen of Wales. The stamp will be issued this week during the national eisteddfod at Aberystwyth, and *Cefn* hopes that those attending will come clutch-

100-150



PRICE OF A FREE PRESS

The media will regard yesterday's fine on Channel 4 for contempt of court as less than a total defeat. The rest of the public, not least the legal profession, may be foxed by this reaction. Channel 4 lost its case. The High Court bluntly rejected its claim that withholding information demanded by the police was in the public interest. Channel 4's funds for commissioning programmes or paying its staff have been depleted as a punishment. But only once. The key difference everybody was watching for was between a one-off fine and a rolling fine, accumulating day by day until Channel 4 went broke, all assets seized by the bailiffs.

The ethos of journalism allows that in certain rare circumstances it might be necessary to break the law — but not to make a virtue of it. As Channel 4's reaction yesterday showed, it is not the journalistic way to harangue the court with revolutionary fervour on the injustice of it all. Neither indignation nor self-pity is in order. Upholding the law is as much valued in a television studio or press room as it is on the streets. Nor are the laws which journalists occasionally feel they have to break necessarily bad laws. There is, for instance, a clear public duty to help the police in detecting or preventing terrorist murder.

Journalists do not want great swathes of exemptions written into the law, so that they are allowed to do things that nobody else is allowed to do. They are not even comfortable with the exception the High Court judges applied (or in the event failed to apply) yesterday, the provisions of the Prevention of Terrorism Act which let a journalist off a contempt charge when a court thinks the action or omission complained of was, on balance, in the public interest.

British journalism values its rights and freedoms as being no different from the rights and freedoms of any and every individual. Creating special privileges for journalists is often the reverse side of the coin of de-

priving others of their rights, for instance to privacy or fair treatment. It is better that press and public should be in the same boat. And it is not the British instinct to regard rights as stemming only from positive law, as if they were concessions granted by the legislature which could be taken away at whim.

Counsel for Channel 4 told the court the company was prepared to hang the head but not to bend the knee. And Lord Justice Woolf acknowledged that the company had a real and not a fanciful moral dilemma. The company believed — and in deciding to comply with the court order or not it is what the company believed that mattered — that to give the information demanded would expose a source to the risk of being murdered. The court was unwilling, and perhaps constitutionally unable, to take on board that information disclosed to the Royal Ulster Constabulary could lead to such a crime.

Yesterday's fine could have been a continuing or accumulating one, rather as repeated fines were imposed on defiant trade unions in the early 1980s. When courts do that they are saying that the authority of the court can only be vindicated by ultimate compliance, under whatever compulsion it takes. That is not what was said to Channel 4 yesterday, though there was a warning of that kind about the future. This time the company was allowed, in effect, to keep its secrets secret, provided it paid the price.

Judges of the High Court exist in a more perfect world than is known to the journalist. Judges will not share the press's self-perception of its role. This is that in the last resort, when agencies of the state are themselves liable to corruption, when lawyers, police, judges even, can slip from the straight and narrow, the journalist or broadcaster has a reluctant and painful duty then to become society's last line of defence. In Northern Ireland particularly that duty has sometimes still to be performed. It can be expensive. It is not optional.

HOW BUSH COULD LOSE

The 1992 presidential election should have been a comfortable victory for George Bush after the Gulf war. His personal poll rating was astonishingly high. He appeared unbeatable. Instead, his re-election campaign is in deep trouble. His approval rating has dropped to below 30 per cent, the level achieved by Jimmy Carter before his landslide defeat in 1980, and he trails Governor Bill Clinton by nearly 25 percentage points.

Mr Bush's campaign operation reflects this tribulation. Leading congressional Republicans say they are "depressed and despondent" and worry that they may lose their own seats this November. Everyone associated with the president is being blamed, from Vice President Dan Quayle downwards. But the real difficulty lies with Mr Bush himself.

Mr Bush seems more interested in holding office than in using it. His awkward references in the 1988 campaign to "the vision thing" have rebounded on him. He has talked of being the "environmental president" and the "education president," but such phrases on his lips have a curious vacuity. His administration's domestic record is thin: a weak economy for the past two years, a soaring budget deficit and few legislative achievements. The White House blames obstruction by the majority Democrats in Congress. But that is only part of the story.

Mr Bush has seldom used his political weight and authority — considerable until late last year — to back his own administration's proposals when key votes come up. He never mobilised support for much needed legislation last year updating America's banking or for choice in schools. Mr Bush is thus exposed to Democrat attack as evading responsibility for America's difficulties.

Mr Clinton hit home this week with his remark: "Can you imagine Harry Truman with the sign on his desk: 'The buck stops somewhere else?' Maverick conservative columnist George Will quoted the bitter joke making the rounds among Republicans:

"What is the difference between the Mafia boss John Gotti and George Bush? Answer: Mr Gotti has at least one conviction." Mr Bush's one apparent conviction is that he should be president.

Mr Bush can still win in November. Mr Clinton's current lead, at least in part, reflects an unusually large boost following the Democratic convention in New York two weeks ago and the withdrawal of Ross Perot from the race. That lead is likely to decline as the Republicans go on the offensive. Mr Clinton remains vulnerable personally. The American electorate still has doubts about his character, which Mr Bush has sought to highlight this week by his repeated emphasis on his presidential experience. Mr Bush also has the chance to gain some positive attention at his party's convention in Houston in just over two weeks' time.

To turn this opportunity into the start of a comeback, Mr Bush needs to do much more than reorganise his campaign and sharpen his message. He needs to explain convincingly why he wants to continue to be president, and how he intends to translate his present vague goals into specific programmes. That involves a degree of commitment which he has not yet shown. John Major led the Tories to victory last April in part because he demonstrated why he wanted to remain prime minister.

Mr Bush's current bedside reading is the mammoth new biography of Harry Truman by David McCullough. Truman's comeback behind victory in 1948 against Thomas Dewey is much quoted by Republicans. But the message for Mr Bush from the 1948 campaign is that Truman won not just because he was aggressive but because he said what he intended to do over the following four years. If Mr Bush cannot find it in himself to say the same, who knows but that James Baker, currently expected soon to join his campaign team, may be asked by some of the elders of his party to do more than just join it. He may even be asked to become their candidate for president.

TRAVELLING HOPELESSLY

This year 11 million Britons will travel overseas on package holidays. That is 6 per cent up on last year's poor showing, partly because sales were brisker after the election when economic recovery was widely predicted. Even so thousands of peak-season package holidays remain unsold, and desperate travel agents have been accused of luring customers into their shops by advertising cheap holidays not really on sale.

Where has all the glamour gone? For many customers, a package holiday will consist of over-crowded airports, delayed flights, unsatisfactory hotels, dirty beaches and the company of much the same people they could have met back home. Once arrived, they may readily agree with the jaundiced Sybil Bedford that "the sights are worse than the journeys". Even that bad: some psychologists rate international air travel as the next most stressful activity to divorce and moving house.

Just as the holiday camp lost out to sun and sand, so the process of evolution seems set to claim the Mediterranean package which has been "traditional" for the past 30 years. The Costas no longer sound so Brava, exotic or fashionable. Having been abroad with a tour company, more and more Britons are discovering the resources to travel on their own, unaided by couriers and away from the packed and packaged seaside. Research has shown that more than half the readers of this newspaper will visit France this year, many armed with nothing more than a Michelin guide.

Even the big tour operators are turning to destinations that are further afield or more

obscure. The biggest boom is in the United States, where a cut-price dollar buys a bargain holiday for Britons. The experience is likely to lead to further changes: the American love of a rugged outdoors vacation will prove increasingly popular with stoical British holidaymakers. Once they have enjoyed the freedom of a hire car or camper van they will find that a fortnight in a seaside resort, with nothing much to do but lie in the sun, seems feeble indeed.

The arrival of the package holiday coincided with the onset of mass air travel, and the economics of scale of huge hotel complexes on the coasts of southern Europe. But the secret of its appeal to the British was the way the encounter with foreign lands and those who lived there was carefully managed and limited. The entire fortnight could be conducted, if necessary, in English: chips with everything. But half a dozen such journeys are enough to desensitise the fear, awaken the curiosity and sharpen the survival skills of even the most parochial of Essex girls. The trend is on holidays *à la carte*.

As a result of this change in appetites, improvised holidaying in Britain could again become a fashionable novelty. After exploring the French countryside or America's national parks, Britons can see with fresh eyes the natural beauty to be found on their own doorstep. And so whole generations that have grown up thinking holidays are things packaged and spent abroad are starting to discover an unknown country called Britain, and the unfamiliar pleasures of exploring it at will.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

'Could do better' seen as verdict on education reform

From the General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers

Sir, Your leader of July 29 on the education white paper is right: "The need for centralisation is a mystery." The only explanation appears to be that if the government cannot get its way through democratic procedures it will eliminate democracy. The white paper has little to do with parents' rights or children's education.

Local education authorities are to be removed, schools will be forced to opt out, and teachers will have their employment compulsorily transferred.

Since 1944, parents and teachers have been able to influence local authorities through the ballot box and negotiations. The authorities have not always got it right but they try to be supportive providers of education and sensitive employers. Their voice is to be stifled.

Out of 25,000 schools in England and Wales, only 558 have been bailed out on opting out and 300 have become grant-maintained. Ballots will continue but the education secretary fears there will be too few and they will not go the way he wants. So, the new funding agency will take over local authority powers and a new bureaucracy will be born. Its members will be appointed by the education secretary — hand-picked for political purity no doubt.

Despite the resource shortages in our schools and the appalling state of much of the building stock, the only extra money available under the white paper is to establish this agency.

The government's aim is to turn schools into free-standing small businesses with governing bodies as the board of directors and teachers' employers. It wants to divide school from school, making them compete for pupils, and to divide teacher from teacher, making them compete for performance-related pay.

Such a strategy fails to recognise that a child's education is a whole, with each teacher contributing to that whole and each school and teacher building on the work of the other.

With a national funding agency ruling the roost, a national curriculum and national testing, the case for nationally agreed minimum levels of resourcing for every school is inescapable.

Yours faithfully,
DOUG McAVOY,
General Secretary,
National Union of Teachers,
Hamilton House,
Mableton Place, WC1.

From the Director of the National Children's Bureau

Sir, Your leader is entirely right to stress the danger of an educational underclass emerging as a result of the government's reforms. Whilst we welcome the white paper's proposal that henceforth a school shall be required to admit a child named in a statement of special educational need, the proposal does nothing for the larger group of children with behaviour problems or less identifiable difficulties.

In the new competitive market of education, these have been excluded from schools in increasing numbers, and the white paper can only accelerate the trend. For these young people — who, research tells us, lack neither ability nor potential — the only proposal appears to be the setting up of separate "sink bins", which in time no doubt become the "sink schools" of the future.

The Children Act 1989, which has been in force for less than a year, reinforces the duties of LEAs in regard to such children, requiring them, alongside other public authorities, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need, by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs. With enhanced duties and evaporating authority over schools, what will the LEA be able to do? We share your fear of a growing tide of rejected children.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REA PRICE,
Director,
National Children's Bureau,
8 Wakeley Street, EC1.
July 29.

From Mr David M. Braybrook

Sir, I scanned your extensive coverage of the education white paper in an attempt to discover the projected role for non-maintained special schools. I looked in vain. Under "pupils with special educational needs" reference was made to placement by LEAs in maintained schools. At present LEAs place some pupils in the 85 non-maintained special schools which cater for a wide range of disabilities.

This school, which has more than 160 hearing-impaired pupils of secondary age, is a "specialist school" (albeit hearing impairment rather than technology or music) and offers full national curriculum entitlement with credible examination results well within the national norm. The school is full and parents want it. It is

distress, that they are not running away from the aggressors, and that they will be returning to their homes which, after all, is what they most want.

On the military question (as David Owen has vigorously spelt out) Nato air forces could take out every tank and heavy weapon engaged in the slaughter of innocent people. Surely the talking would be much improved with a little action.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL GREGORY,
1 Lennox Street, Edinburgh.
July 30.

From Mr James Pollock

Sir, What is happening in the Balkans reminds me rather of the story in the New Testament of the so-called good Samaritans, where, I

also far cheaper than its maintained LEA special school counterpart.

Although fulfilling many of the requirements, schools such as ours cannot gain grant-maintained status and may cease to exist if the bill confirms placement in the maintained sector as the sole solution to meeting the needs of children with disabilities. Are choice and diversity for all parents?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID M. BRAYBROOK
(Headmaster),
Ovingdean Hall School,
Greenways, Brighton, East Sussex.
July 29.

From Mr T. G. Stanton

Sir, I am a governor of a local school and consider your leading article on the education white paper misconceived. The Secretary of State's proposals (as reported on other pages of your paper) will increase, not diminish, local democracy. You cannot get democracy much more local than the election for schools of parent governors, and if the local authorities did not have the power to appoint governors, the process would be even more democratic.

As councils control the information given to parents and governors, it is hardly surprising that more schools do not opt out. If parents and governors get more power and more information they will want to use them. Do you doubt they will do so, as they see it, in the interests of their children? And if they do so, and are not behaving illegally, can you see the Secretary of State interfering?

As I see it the Secretary of State merely wants to act in a supervisory role. He cannot and will not run all the schools.

Yours faithfully,
T. G. STANTON,
5 Vincent Road, Selsey,
Nr Chichester, West Sussex.
July 29.

From Mr S. J. Arbery

Sir, I would wish to endorse much that is in your leader "State knows best". But your assertion that popular schools are those that get good academic results by being academically selective is to ignore that many popular and successful schools do not select on academic performance, but achieve excellent results and provide a challenge to pupils of all abilities.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. ARBERY,
Rivendell, Upper Street,
Defford, Hereford and Worcester.

think. He frankly got it all rather wrong. If the traveller in that parable had been left in situ, so to speak, he would probably have recovered in a few days and been on his way — it probably wasn't the first time he'd been beaten up, anyway, and nature's a marvellous healer.

As it was, he was whisked off to some inn, quite probably in the opposite direction he was originally going in, where he was cosseted and pampered and, so far as he was concerned, it was all for free (landlord probably had a hard time moving him on in the end, I wouldn't doubt). No wonder those Samaritans were looked down on.

Yours sincerely,
JAMES POLLOCK,
7 Mill Yard,
Burnham Market, Norfolk.

Balkan refugees

From Lieutenant Colonel Lionel Gregory

Sir, Lady Chalker is reported today from Geneva as commenting that "we ought to be doing more for them [the Balkan refugees] on the spot". Of course we should.

The Gulf was saw one of the largest temporary cities in history mushroom in the desert. Why not on the borders of Bosnia and Croatia — a safe haven? It would be an exciting project, financed by the European Community and supervised by the services, who are very good at this sort of thing. The displaced families themselves might be able to play an important role, supported by young volunteers from all over Europe.

It would at least demonstrate that the refugees are not forgotten in their

Self-development study

From Mr Alan G. Gair

Sir, I found your series of articles (July 21-24) and editorial (July 23) on *Landmark Education* and its three-day course, the Forum, emotional and narrow-minded.

Independent research on a large sample by Daniel Yankelovich's company DYG (a reputable international research group) showed that over 95 per cent of those completing the training found it to be one of the most powerful and useful courses they had ever taken. I and my family of five professional adults support this view.

Of course, these trainings should be controlled, and in the case of *Landmark* they are. Participants with any serious medical condition

or any history of mental illness are not allowed to take the training.

The training assists one to enquire into one's life and to re-design it, re-directing it into more useful and effective areas. Why is this so frightening to your reporters?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN G. GAIR,
Endon Hall, West Wing,
Oak Lane, Ketteridge,
Macclesfield, Cheshire.

From Mr Gordon Dixon

Sir, It is regrettable that you were willing to carry five substantial articles and a leader attacking the Forum largely based on the experience of a reporter who attended only one day of a three-and-a-half-day event.

Mellor bugging

From Mr Cerian Jones

Sir, I must take issue with your article, "Popular Mellor survives a day of phoney rumours" (July 27), in which you report that Bill Hagerty, editor of *The People*, described my account of the bugging of Antonio de Sancha's conversations as containing "so many errors as to render it worthless".

A man purporting to be a private detective investigating suspected drug abuse in the far above mine, where Ms de Sancha was staying, was introduced to me by my landlord

some three weeks ago. This man entered my flat under these false pretences, where he made tape recordings of Ms de Sancha's telephone conversations, apparently without her knowledge.

He used a telephone extension cable fed out of an upstairs window and into my flat. He also used a bugging device concealed in an electrical adaptor plug.

Subsequent investigations made by *The Sunday Times*'s Insight team have enabled me to establish the true identity of this man, namely the reporter who wrote the initial story

on this matter which appeared in *The People* on July 20.

My full account of these events is contained in a sworn affidavit which is in the possession of *The Sunday Times*, and its story which appeared last weekend was based upon my account.

Mr Hagerty has been invited to meet me to discuss his version of events but he has so far declined.

Yours faithfully,
CERIAN JONES,
Finborough Road,
West Brompton, SW10.
July 30.

Labour prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, was preparing to protest to the Soviet ambassador on the basis that the letter was authentic.

The Conservatives' exploitation of such a sinister letter, which both parties believed to be genuine, hardly compares with Mr Howard's false charge that they invented, or circulated, a known forgery.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW LANSLEY
(Director),
Conservative Research Department,
32 Smith Square, SW1.

Nature and the Christian faith

From the General Secretary of the Christian Medical Fellowship

Sir, The Reverend Hugh Dawes's main point in "Freeing the Christian Church from supernatural fetters" (July 27) seems to be that removing everything supernatural from the Christian faith will make it more believable for reasonable people. It would of course be neither "Christian" nor "faith".

The 4,000 British doctors in all branches of the profession who are members of the Christian Medical Fellowship find no difficulty in accepting the evidence for the traditional understanding of the virgin birth, the bodily resurrection and the healing miracles of the New Testament. It is Hugh Dawes's mental gymnastics which are unbelievable.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW FERROUSON,
General Secretary,
Christian Medical Fellowship,
157 Waterloo Road, SE1.
July 28.

From Mr S. P. Whitley

Sir, I read Hugh Dawes with sympathetic disagreement. Some revision of orthodoxy could well be timely. But if we abolished "supernaturalism" as sweepingly as he seems to suggest, would not God Himself be an inevitable casualty? And if so, what basis would there be for Christianity at all?

Yours faithfully,
S. P. WHITLEY,
Flat 2, 5 Palmeira Avenue,
Hove, East Sussex.

From Mr Russell McCormick

Sir, Thank God for Hugh Dawes! With all the trouble in the world caused by various churches and religious organisations struggling to impose their brand of belief, it is time that people forgot decades of evangelism and other distractions and irrelevancies.

Yours faithfully,
R. MCCORMICK,
17 River Green,
Hamble, Hampshire.

From Mr Richard Rhodes James

Sir, Hugh Dawes says that "the churches as a whole have failed to adjust to a shift in world view which has been taking place for over 200 years."

I have never believed that the Church existed to adjust to shifts in world views, to be a kind of theological charameleon. Mr Dawes notes that conservative, evangelical Christianity is flourishing. It may be because instead of shifting it holds its ground. Its "defiant opposition to the rest of human activity" is the glory of Christianity.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD RHODES JAMES,
15 Almoners Avenue, Cambridge.

From Mr Mary E. Burke

Sir, Mr Dawes's argument for freeing Christianity from religion raises many novel possibilities: grocery shops without food, for instance, or libraries without books. Most exciting of all to a layperson is the prospect of church services without collections.

Yours sincerely,
MARY E. BURKE,
Sea Green Cottage,
Walberswick, Suffolk.
July 28.

From Mr Colin J. P. Clifford

Sir, Isn't Hugh Dawes blaming the empty churches of liberal churchmen on the full ones of evangelicalists?

Yours sincerely,
COLIN CLIFFORD,
45 Chiddington Street, SW6.
July 28.

From Dr Sheridan Gilley

Sir, The Reverend Hugh Dawes's atheist essay renouncing supernaturalism merely proves that the Church of England's problem is not faith in God but faith in its clergy.

There are few believing laymen so full of charity as to be willing to support an unbelieving priesthood.

Yours faithfully,
SHERIDAN GILLEY,
University of Durham,
Department of Theology,
Abbey House,
Palace Green, Durham.

From the Chaplain of the Royal Hospital Chelsea

Sir, Members of the Church do not need to belong to a lunatic fringe, or even be conservative evangelicals, in order to believe in life after death, the virgin birth or the resurrection. We hold these matters to be central to our faith.

Yours faithfully,
TOM HINEY,
Royal Hospital Chelsea,
London SW3 4SR.

From Father David Sillince

Sir, Mr Dawes, it seems to me, has successfully founded the Church of God without God. Heaven knows why anybody should want to frequent such an institution to celebrate "the power of life": one could surely do that much better with a good gin-and-tonic, or a trip to Doncaster Sunday races.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SILLINCE,
St John's Cathedral,
Bishop's House, Edinburgh Road,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 20

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

071-782 5046

OBITUARIES

CHARLES ABELL

Charles Abell, OBE, former engineering director of BOAC and chairman of British Airways Engine Overhaul Limited, 1972-74, died on July 17 aged 81. He was born in Coventry on December 1, 1910.

CHARLES Abell's 40 years at the sharp end of British air transport, from 1934 to 1974, took him from the maintenance and operation of the 95mph Handley Page biplanes of Imperial Airways, through the introduction of 500mph long-range jets, to the proving flights of the supersonic Concorde. During his 34 years with BOAC he served under ten successive chairmen.

Immersion in aviation had long been a tradition of the Abell family. His father, Major George Henry Abell, and his brother, Frank, had been engineer officers in the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Air Force between 1915 and 1919. After the war their engineering experience took them to the Bristol Aeroplane Company at Filton where George Abell became general manager of the Bristol car and light engineering division, while Frank became the company's service manager.

Charles Abell was educated at Sherborne School and in 1930, encouraged by his father and uncle, went for a year as an engineering trainee with Invicta Cars and then to widen his experience — joined Hawker Aircraft at Kingston as a fitter, before moving for another 12 months to AC Cars at Thames Ditton. In 1934 he embarked upon his life-long career by joining Imperial Airways in their maintenance workshops at Croydon Airport.

In 1941 at Seattle in the United States, Abell began a long and



fruitful association with Boeing Aircraft as a member of the newly-formed BOAC's acceptance team for three newly purchased Boeing 314A flying boats.

During the next four years, as BOAC's chief inspector and regional technical officer at Baltimore, Abell was largely responsible for the reliability of service of the Boeing boats.

In their seven years with BOAC they made nearly 600 Atlantic crossings and carried some 15,000 passengers without mishap in almost 30,000 flying hours — a remarkable record. The Atlantic crossings included four with the prime minister Winston Churchill.

In 1945 Abell moved to Dorval, Montreal, as BOAC's "No 3 Line"

manager, operating seven converted Liberator bombers on the North Atlantic "return ferry service" to Preswick. The Liberators were replaced in 1946 by five ex-USAF Lockheed 049 Constellations to start post-war Atlantic air services. In 1949 Abell returned to England to set up an interim main base for the "No 3 Line" now with ten Constellations (and, later, 17 Boeing Stratocruisers) in the Braemar hangar at Filton, Bristol. From there they operated, through Heathrow, to La Guardia, New York, to Sydney, Australia and to South America.

Abell — from 1951 BOAC's deputy operator director (engineer) — took a leading part in laying out what is now British Airways "Technical Block A" from which, in May 1952, the world's commercial jet services were launched with the 36-passenger de Havilland Comet. That fleet was sadly to be grounded between 1954 and 1958 because of the catastrophic failure of the pressure cabins on services flown at greater heights than ever before.

Abell became BOAC's chief engineer in 1955 in charge of, by then, a substantial and varied fleet of some 56 Constellations, Stratocruisers and Argonauts, to be reinforced and replaced between 1956 and 1959 by some 60 DC-7s, Britannias and Comet 4s. From May of 1960 they all began to be superseded through-out the BOAC route system by the new generation of long-range jets — 25 Boeing 707s. The first of the new British VC-10 aircraft joined the 707s in April 1964.

In June 1968 Abell was appointed BOAC's engineering director with a special remit, in addition to his other duties, to study the massive engineering and other requirements for the

introduction of the forthcoming Boeing 747 Jumbo Jet and Concorde. During this time — from September 1, 1972 — BEA and BOAC were combined into a new British Airways Group, although the full merger of the two airlines was held up until April 1974. Thereafter, the first Concorde began service with British Airways in January 1976 and the first B747 in May of 1977.

Abell had been appointed to the BOAC board in April 1972 under the chairmanship of Sir David Nicholson with the satisfaction of seeing a thoroughly modern and competitive aircraft fleet in service. In December 1972 he was appointed, in addition, chairman of British Airways Engineering Overhaul Limited at Farnborough, among other appointments, he represented the airline on the airworthiness requirements committee of the Civil Aviation Authority and was the president of the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers and Technicians and the chairman of its central examining board.

He retired from the BOAC division of British Airways in 1974, remaining an engineering consultant to the board until 1977. Abell joined the Royal Aeronautical Society in 1952, was elected a fellow in 1954 and awarded the society's "British Silver Medal for Aeronautics" in 1957 for "his engineering achievements". He was elected to the society's council in 1970, and became a vice-president in 1972 and president in 1976-77.

He married, first, in 1939, Beryl Boyce by whom he had a son, John, born in Montreal in 1944. Beryl Abell died in 1973. He married secondly, in 1977, Margaret Lewbery, who survives him.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL
WALTER HINGSTON

Lieutenant-Colonel Walter George Hingston, OBE, soldier, author and editor, died on June 18 aged 87. He was born on February 15, 1905.

WALTER Hingston was an intelligence officer to the 4th Indian division which led the advance on Sidi Barrani, a British victory which resulted in the destruction of the Italian army in the Western Desert and the near-collapse of the Italians' hold on North Africa.

His regiment was the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. Promotion had been very slow after the first world war and in 1931 he was seconded to the Royal West African Frontier Force. During one of his tours of duty he nearly died of dysentery and came back to England on sick leave. Diabetes was diagnosed during his recovery and he went to King's College Hospital.

On his recovery he transferred to the Indian Army and was posted to Peshawar during the hot weather and, after that, to Dacca where the climate was hot and humid; diabetes threatened again. Fortunately he had to go to Simla on a language course and the better climate helped to cure him.

In 1939 he went to the Staff College at Quetta and then to Egypt as GSO 111 (intelligence) to the 4th Indian Division. General Wavell's strategy had been to keep open a gap in the opposing forces. Walter Hingston was using a sun compass in the leading vehicle; when darkness fell he and his companions lay out in the open and he quoted the Agincourt lines from Shakespeare's Henry V. Before light next day the division went through the gap and surprised the enemy from the rear: they surrendered. He was almost immediately sent to Eritrea to reconnoitre the enemy position.

By this time his diabetes had returned. His wife, whom he had married in Simla, was sending him insulin in the guise of tobacco. After a whole night spent interrogating prisoners he took an enormous dose of insulin and fell asleep and then went into a coma. When he came round he was in the first aid post being given sweet tea. His senior officers were angry with him for not disclosing his diabetes, but they were also very kind to him and he was mentioned in dispatches.

During his sick leave Hingston wrote *The Tiger Stripes*, the history of the 4th Indian Division to that date. Later he wrote with a colleague *The Tiger Kills*. He then went into Army public relations and when he was finally invalided out as a diabetic on insulin in 1944 he had some qualifications for civilian life. While looking for a job he wrote the fifth volume of the regimental history of the KOYL and called it *Never Give Up* — the translation of the regimental motto *Cede Nullis*.

Hingston was then appointed information officer to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the Civil Service. The work was difficult for a lay person but he was successful in explaining various inventions to journalists. He was appointed OBE.

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Luc Estang, pseudonym of Lucien Bassard, French Catholic novelist, poet and critic, died in a Paris hospital on July 25 aged 80. He was born on November 12, 1911.

LUC Estang was best known in France as a novelist, as literary editor of *La Croix* and as a regular reviewer of novels in *Figaro Littéraire*. He also reviewed books of different sorts in a variety of other literary magazines. He was for long a director of the distinguished publishing house, Editions du Seuil. He was also a member of the jury of the Prix Renaudot. In this country he was known primarily for *The Better Song* (1964), Denise Follor's and Eric Mosbacher's sensitive version of his *Le Bonheur et le Salut* (1961), the only one of his novels to have been translated into English.

Perhaps he was a trifle unlucky in not being more fully represented in translation. As a Catholic novelist in the tradition of Graham Greene, Mauriac, and, above all, of his friend and mentor Georges Bernanos, he was notable.

Lucien Bassard was the son of a watchmaker and jeweller, also called Lucien, and his wife, the former Marie-Eugénie Peyroux. His education was mainly religious: in Artois and then in Belgian Catholic colleges. After his return to Paris in 1929 he held various jobs before joining the Catholic newspaper, *La Croix*, in 1934. He was its literary editor from 1940 until 1955 and continued to write for it.

He first became known as a religious poet of great promise with the volume *Au-delà de moi-même* ("Beyond Myself"), which appeared in 1938, and was followed by *Transhumances* ("Moving the Flock") the following year. There were more collections, including *Les Béatitudes* (1945), which was widely discussed at the time. As a poet, Estang was influenced by Péguy and Claudel and his subject matter was almost exclusively Catholic — an exploration of original sin, which for him (in fiction as in poetry) was the starting point of everything, including love of God.

His earlier poems are melodious and neoclassic in form; but those of his later collections, such as *Les Quatre éléments*

LUC ESTANG



(1956), are more metaphysical and rhetorical. This poetry, admired by Bernanos, is still being studied by students of French Catholicism and its Jansenist agonies, and it is in the poetry that he defines his essential position, as a man in permanent search of a God who eludes him.

Estang's first novel, *Les Stigmates* (1949, "The Stigmata"), was also the first of an impressive trilogy, whose general title is *Charges d'âmes* ("Cure of Souls", 1949-54). While very able, *Les Stigmates* was written in the shadow of Bernanos (who had died in the previous year); it succeeded in disturbing the peace of the orthodox almost as much as Bernanos had done with some of his own books. It deals with a man prey to evil in every form, a degenerate psychopath, who is yet shown as achieving redemption by bringing the son of his mistress to faith in God. *Les Stigmates* is powerful if rather oppressive stuff, convincing in Catholic if not quite in other terms, and it deeply upset those who could not stomach the notion

of a depraved and apparently totally corrupted man could yet possess grace.

The next volume in the trilogy, *Cherchant qui dévot* (1951, "Seeking Whom He May Devour"), set in a religious seminary, again offended devout Catholics, since it seemed to them to be rather an attack on their religion than a recommendation of it. Estang's novellas are all depicted as guilt-ridden neurotics, devoid of hope and sometimes even of faith. But he knew the back-ground well.

After completing the trilogy, Estang began to move away from the influence of Bernanos. *L'Interrogatoire* (1957, "The Interrogation"), one of his most original novels, is a portrait of the process of a convert groping for certainty in a communist state.

The Better Song, when it appeared in England and America, aroused a mixed reaction. It is the story of a middle-aged law clerk, Octave, who has to weigh the happiness which his adulterous affair has given him against its destructiveness to others. Anthony West called it "sanctimonious fudge" and criticised the too neatly tragic ending; but at this distance in time the book still lingers in the mind, most particularly for its skilful, exact and persuasive account of the sanctimonious Octave's misery.

If nothing else, *The Better Song* gives an incomparable picture of a certain sort of eternally dissatisfied yet fervent religious temperament.

There was little room for humour or any kind of levity in Estang's fiction, which has probably meant more to his coreligionists than to other readers, since he lacked the far more popular Mauriac's common touch and ability to transcend specifically Catholic experience.

Estang wrote a number of influential critical studies, including ones on Bernanos (1947) and Saint-Exupéry (1956), a vast quantity of literary journalism, and a play, *Le Jour de Cain* (1967). There is also an important essay of 1944, *La poésie*, in which he states his view of poetry: *Invitation à la poésie*. He received many honours and awards, and was a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur.

In 1939 he married former Suzanne Boucheveau-Bosgontier.

APPRECIATIONS

Peter Greenham

I AM very glad that it was Peter Greenham (obituary, July 16) who was keeper of the Royal Academy Schools when I was a student in the 1960s. The pressure then was on the students to define their artistic intentions early; in that atmosphere Greenham was the friend of the late developer.

Portraits from that period by him are precisely drawn and highly modelled. In spite of their dreamy mood there is much of the same sort of information that a sculptor would need to make a head out of clay. Good draughtsmen come to be fascinated by what is out of their reach, out of sight. He was an obsessive drawer and the unseen parts of the body are all accounted for, giving his models the strength to move about.

He was well known for the minute changes of tone which characterise his portraits and landscapes. The designation "tonal" painter is often misapplied, as it should describe any artist whose notion of colour is restrained by the overriding need to give a picture the illusion of distance. Peter Greenham painted with the gas turned right down, but with no danger of it going out.

The reward for this skill is subtlety of flavour and I am sure that that was his poetic intention and not to show off his most charming nervous sensibilities. Truthfulness of tone is user friendly; the ignorant viewer need not know how it comes about to enjoy the pleasing illusion. There was no stylist looking over his shoulder and, as your obituarist noted, he arrived at his manner via his own instincts.

His unique contribution was to see details and put them back into painting. Others were liberated to do the same, for that struck a chord with contemporary youth bored with large scale gesture.

Students at the Royal Academy drew from the life model every day for the first term. Of course we rallied against it but because of Greenham's undomineering "you first" approach most turned their heads cheerfully into the storm. It was worth the effort.

He could never have too much of a good thing. Unlike Gainsborough who "never saw a landscape as beautiful as a Claude" he found the real thing awe-inspiring. Peter Greenham was primarily a naturalist painter, one who works, whenever he can, in front of his subject. I sometimes think that in his kindly view of his sitters and the liquefaction of their clothes he had something in common with Boucher and eighteenth century French painting; for his pictures are so balanced; but it is clear from the brush work, the dots and stutters, that a grander manner influenced his designs.

During the 1970s he became more interested in ob-

jecting a unity of light. Artistically he is, I suppose, a descendant of Sickert, but one who has understood Cézanne and may be said to belong to that long-lived and amorphous school of Post-Impressionism: a school in which it is increasingly difficult to make a real contribution as he did.

Edmund Fairfax-Lacy

PETER Greenham's draughtsmanship was much admired by quite a few Oxfordshire schoolboys during the war who probably remained quite unaware of his subsequent eminence. In about 1941 he came for a few terms to teach a bit of everything to lower forms at Lord Williams's School, Thame. It was then a tiny country grammar school, a robust community and brutal towards weak or incompetent masters, of whom there were a number among the motley collection of transients who flowed through the place at that time.

"Mr Greenham" was a shy figure, tall and (in those days) slim, much given to wandering about aimlessly in a floppy hat turned down all round, rather like John Carradine as the itinerant preacher in



Grapes of Wrath. He might have seemed an obvious candidate for torment, instead he proved to be quickly liked and respected, not least for his ability to produce swift, feathery portraits. These unerring likenesses were much sought after by owners of autograph albums.

He turned this skill to unusual account in the classroom. As lessons progressed he would begin with a few deft and enigmatic strokes on the blackboard to sketch those who misbehaved. Anyone wicked enough to have his instantly recognisable face completed could expect to receive appropriate punishment to the delighted acclaim of the virtuous.

P. K. Harrison

IN OUR obituary of Alexander McKee yesterday we incorrectly gave his Christian name as William in the headline and in the first two paragraphs. His Christian names were, in fact, Alexander Paul Charrier.

August 1 ON THIS DAY 1956

England scored 450 (the Rev D.S. Sheppard 113); Australia 84 and 205 (C.C. McDonald 89). The twentieth wicket fell to Lock. It was Laker's second triumph — in May he took ten for 88 for Surrey against the Australians. Jim Laker was born in Yorkshire in 1922 and died in 1986.

LAKER'S SUPREME PART IN RETAINING THE ASHES

From Our Cricket Correspondent

England won the fourth Test match against Australia at Old Trafford yesterday by an innings and 170 runs, so retaining the Ashes, and Laker made the achievement possible by taking all 10 wickets in Australia's second innings. Either feat is notable enough; but when one leads to the other a mockery is made of all laws of probability. Last Friday Laker captured nine wickets in Australia's first innings and his remarkable tally of 19 wickets for 90 runs must always make this one of the most memorable games of cricket ever played. Indeed, it is unlikely that Laker's performance will ever be equalled. Cobden's match and Fowler's match and many others have their own place in history. This one will always be remembered as Laker's match for the way in which his off break paralysed Australia.

There are many tedious records which have singularly little meaning, but those which the 34-year-old Laker surpassed yesterday were all of considerable significance. In the first place he became the first bowler ever to take 19 wickets in any first-class match, let alone a Test match. In Test matches S.F. Barnes headed the list with 17 for 159 against South Africa in 1913. Against Australia, H. Verity

and W. Rhodes both took 15 in a match, and for Australia F.R. Spofforth took 14 in 1882. But Laker's crop leaves all these far behind and now with 39 wickets in the series, he has equalled the number established by A.V. Bedser as a record against Australia in 1953.

This match will always be talked about as much as any of the 171 played between England and Australia before. It not only because of Laker's analysis but also because there arose on the second day a widespread controversy over the condition of the pitch. Then the ball spun from dry turf. Yesterday it did so after persistent rain and the batsmen's task grew progressively harder with the passing of time. Yet for a long while it seemed that the grass would not dry sufficiently or quickly enough for England to win and as nothing was foregone the play was full of tension.

When the final two hours of the evening started, whichever side was to win still had a long way to go. Someone was going to be denied and the likelihood that it would be Australia increased when McDonald's monumental vigil of 337 minutes was ended by the second ball after tea. He pushed forward at an off-break and Ockman at backward short leg took his fifth catch of the match. The next two balls from Laker must have settled any doubts in English minds. Both of them turned viciously and now it was only a matter of time and a question of whether Laker could take the last three wickets himself.

This was suddenly a fabulous possibility, and three-quarters of an hour later it was an accomplished deed. First Benard was forced back on to his stumps and bowled by a generously fluffed off-break, then Lindwall was snapped up in the leg trap, and finally Maddocks was trapped leg-before. Australia were beaten, and in a trice the crowd flooded the ground, there were smiles and handshakes, and the very jugged off the field as though nothing very much had happened.

Scheme to quarry on battlefield site sparks new conflict

By CRAIG SETON

A CAMPAIGN has started to save one of the historic battle-grounds of the War of the Roses that local people claim faces destruction from plans for large-scale sand and gravel quarries in an area of natural beauty on the border of Staffordshire and Shropshire.

Staffordshire County Council has angered local people by earmarking two 100-acre sites in the north-west of the county on the northern and southern edges of the Blore Heath battlefield, near Market Drayton, where the forces of the House of Lancaster were defeated by Yorkists in a bloody conflict in 1459.

Local opponents include descendants of the families who fought in the battle and an American financier who has spent ten years restoring a Queen Anne mansion overlooking Folly Wood, one of the two sites that they say contain ancient oaks and are rich in wildlife, including badgers.

The Rev Brian Thomas Swynnerton, a school chaplain who lives in the narrow gap between the two proposed locations for sand and gravel extraction, said the

battlefield was part of the English heritage and would be destroyed by massive new quarries and the heavy traffic the development would bring. A stone memorial cross near his home marks the spot where Lord Audley was killed as he led the forces of Lancaster during the battle.

Mr Swynnerton, whose ancestors fought for the House of Lancaster in the battle, is a member of an action committee formed to fight the proposals that is now planning legal action to challenge the county council.

He said the planned extraction at Blore Heath would threaten the historic site at a time when English Heritage was preparing a list of ancient battle-grounds that should be preserved. There was already one quarry near by and local residents knew from experience the kind of disturbance new developments would cause. He said: "The area is rich in history. My family had nearly 100 folk in the battle and the names of local people who were involved are still well known in the area today. Another leading opponent is Freddie Fisher, an American who lives with his English



Fight resumed: the Rev Brian Swynnerton at the monument marking the site of the battle of Blore Heath

wife and family at the 100-acre Oakley Hall estate overlooking Folly Wood. Mr Fisher is the former finance director of Goldcrest, the film company that made *Chariots of Fire* and *Gandhi*.

Mr Fisher has spent ten years restoring his Queen Anne home and is horrified by the plans. He claims the

sites were included in Staffordshire revised draft aggregate plan without consultation. He said: "It has been steam-rollered through. This is a tightly knit community that we have come to know and love and is something we want to protect. This development would be the most disastrous thing to happen here after the battle of Blore Heath."

There would now be a six-week consultation period and a public enquiry would start in November. He said he understood public concern but added: "I have to strike a balance between the needs of the environment and the statutory requirements we have to fulfil for sand and gravel."

● BUSINESS 15-18,22,23
● WEEKEND MONEY 19-21

BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-30

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile
Michael Pickard is six foot four-and-a-half inches tall. Incidentally, or so it sometimes appears to people obsessed with his height, he is also the chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation, where he earns £35,000 against £250,000 he commanded at Sears. He has been working five days a week instead of three. Page 17



Cadbury's code

The London Stock Exchange has come out in favour of Sir Adrian Cadbury's recommendations on corporate governance, but says it will not force companies to comply with the proposed code. Page 16

One man's direct debit is another man's direct credit

Letters
Page 20

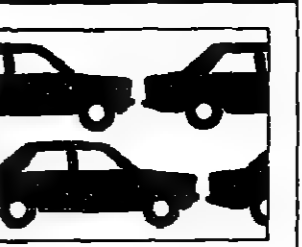
Home misery

Lenders now estimate that more than a million borrowers have mortgages larger than the value of their property, substantially higher than their previous figure of 380,000. Paul and Sandra Awcock are just one couple in this situation, with a mortgage of £42,950 on a property worth £27,000. They have been refused an unsecured loan to cover the shortfall by the National & Provincial building society. Societies say they are reluctant to make such loans. Page 19



Help at hand

Only 25 home owners have so far benefited from mortgage rescue schemes designed to keep thousands in their homes. Lenders say many people do not want to be "rescued". Page 19



Gold rush

Banks and building societies are fighting to attract and maintain business by offering cars, holidays and big cash prizes in competitions to new savers and traveller's cheque customers. Page 21

Tax drive

Drivers who have expensive company cars for private use could end up paying more than 40 per cent more tax for the privilege under new proposals from the Inland Revenue. Page 20

Company sold £1.5bn of policies last year

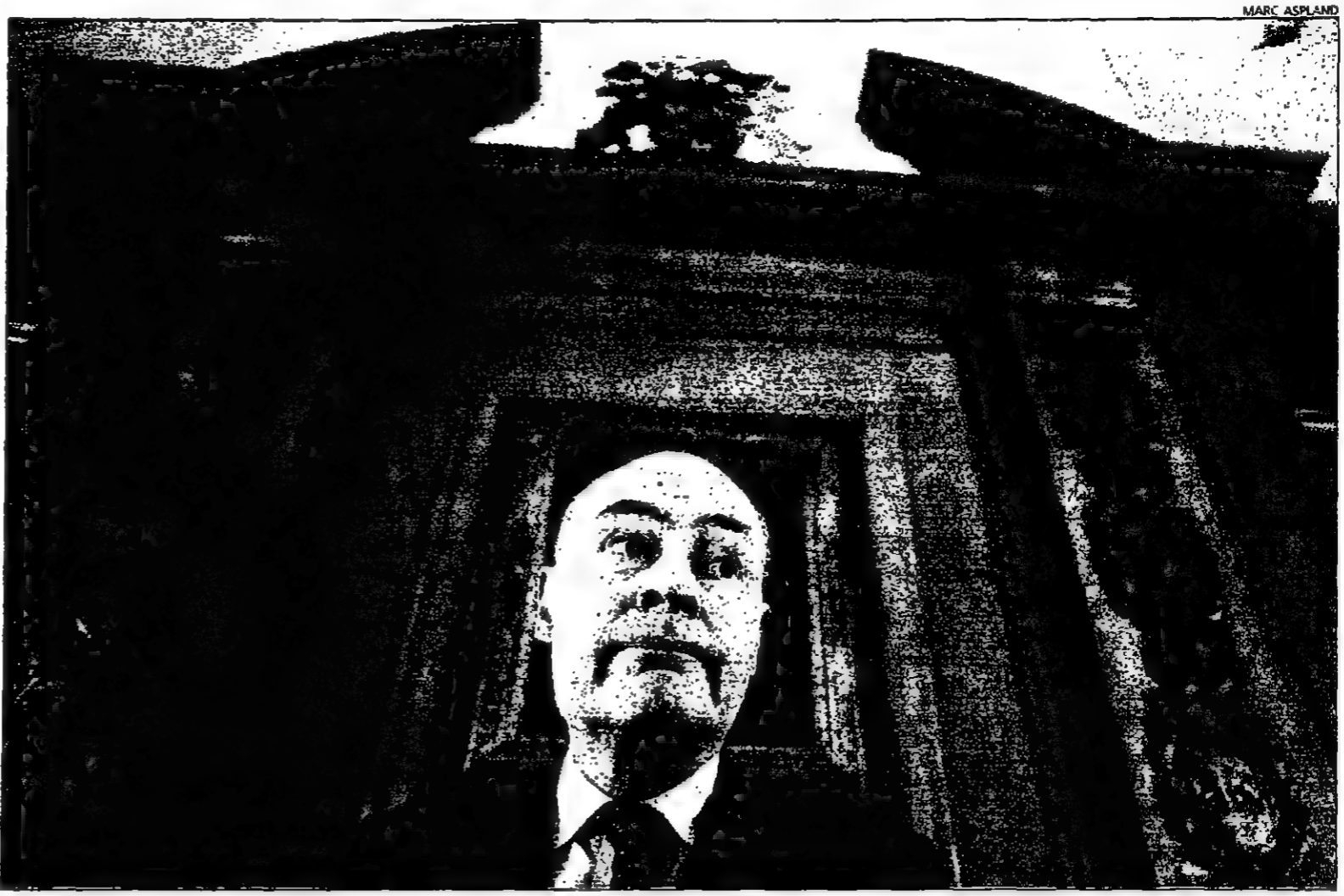
Scottish Widows to check plans sold by agents

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

SCOTTISH Widows, the life assurance company, is checking all the policies sold by its 150 tied agents over the past four years after a compliance check by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation. The company, which sold more than £1.5 billion of policies last year, could face a large compensation bill if its agents are found to have sold the wrong policies to investors who have lost money as a result. Scottish Widows began contacting the thousands of customers involved this week. The checks should be completed by the end of August. Peter Hendry, national accounts manager at Scottish Widows, said: "Scottish Widows has agreed with the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation that it will no longer appoint tied agents until the wide-ranging review of the business and selling techniques is completed. Scottish Widows, which has been trying to increase the amount of business sold by tied agents, instead of relying on independent financial advisers who can sell the products of any insurance company, says that although the action was prompted by a Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation visit its review was voluntary. Mr Hendry said: "We want to make sure that we have

nothing but satisfied customers on board." He continued: "This is a genuine review of the procedures. We want to make sure we comply with everything. There is no particular firm we are looking at. We have terminated a number over the past 18 months, none of them as a result of this. "We are looking back generally to when we started the tied agency network. We have to make sure that all the advice given was what we would have wanted. We want to ensure that the best selling practices are adhered to." He said that none of the investors had been compensated yet. The company put a new structure in place earlier in the year, with sales consultants to monitor the activities of its agents. Mike Abrahams, chief enforcement officer at the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, said that it was early days in the review. Scottish Widows had agreed not to take on any new firms at the moment. "The review of the business is to ensure that best advice was always given," Mr Abrahams added. Under the Financial Services Act, agents and independent brokers must offer suitable investments to clients after filling out factfinds about their circumstances. Scottish Widows, which is

one of the better performing investment houses, has relied heavily on independent financial advisers for its sales. This makes them vulnerable should their performance falter, as they would then fall out of favour with brokers reluctant to recommend the company's policies as best advice. When Scottish Widows' estate agency subsidiary, Connell, bought 99 offices from Prudential in 1990, the number of tied salesmen increased substantially. Because the life assurance and pensions specialist has been at the top of the performance tables it has done particularly well in attracting new business since the Financial Services Act came into operation four years ago. It is one of the biggest spenders in the financial services sector on television and newspaper advertisements featuring Deborah Barrymore, as the original cloak-draped widow. The actress, who is the daughter of Roger Moore, is now best known as the Scottish widow. The Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation has 11 disciplinary hearings pending against life companies, some of which are household names. Earlier this year, Norwich Union agreed to pay more than £700,000 in compensation to the clients of one tied agent.



Picture of profitability: Sir Jeremy Morse reporting half-time results up 12 per cent yesterday, which put the bank in line for top slot

Interims ahead at Lloyds

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS Bank boosted pre-tax profits by 12 per cent to £369 million in the first half of the year, on lower bad debt provisions and staff cuts. The increase was achieved despite a sharp fall in income due to the recession, and puts Lloyds in line to retain its position as Britain's most profitable bank. The interim dividend rises 9 per cent to 5.9p. But Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, sees few signs of economic recovery. "There is a long grind ahead for our customers. Any business that keeps its head above water in these times can be pleased. This applies to a bank as well as its customers." Profits were boosted by a £72 million writeback from Third World debt provisions. Domestic provisions fell 23 per cent to £329 million, with the biggest fall in large company provisions, despite its £50 million exposure to Olympia & York, the property group. Brian Pitsman, chief executive, said the bank would continue to reduce costs. It has cut more than 6,000 jobs in the past year, 8 per cent of the total. Overall, costs fell 7 per cent to £1.19 billion. But income fell even faster, with group assets down almost £4 billion to £50.4 billion. Total income fell 6 per cent to £1.89 billion. Mr Pitsman warned shareholders that the pressure would continue. *Times, page 16*

MMC to investigate gas market

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the main competition watchdog, is to examine the gas market in Britain, including the price to domestic customers. It will rule whether the monopoly enjoyed by British Gas operates against the public interest. The decision by Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, to refer the matter to the MMC comes after a bitter struggle between the company and the Office of Gas Regulation (Ofgas), the body charged with looking after customers' interests. Ofgas has long been trying to weaken British Gas's monopoly on transportation of gas around the country through its pipeline network. The two parties have been unable to agree on the rate of return the company should enjoy after opening the network up to competitors in the supply business. After a final breakdown in negotiations this week between Sir James McKinnon, head of Ofgas, and the company, the regulator finally asked the MMC to look into the transportation business. It accepts that a decision will be delayed by a year beyond the original target date this October. A reference is the last resort if such disputes cannot be settled. British Gas countered by demanding that the MMC look at the entire industry, including the new tariff formula governing domestic bills set last December after a similarly long dispute between the two. The company had

never been happy with the formula, which Ofgas says has delivered lower gas prices and better standards of service to customers. Mr Heseltine has agreed to a full reference. Officially, the review of domestic prices should be ready by next spring and that of the pipelines within six months, but the two will probably be announced simultaneously. Ofgas said it was pleased

that the pipeline business was to be reviewed but less so that domestic tariffs were to be reconsidered. Greg McGregor, director of business affairs at Ofgas, said it was unclear why Mr Heseltine was calling into question "the value-for-money package we've put into place". The referral was welcomed by the Gas Consumers' Council. Ian Powe, director, said: "Overdue though it is, the

enquiry may be in the nick of time to prevent too many changes being imposed on and by British Gas, not all of which are in the consumer's interest." Ofgas believes the pipeline business should earn a return of about 4.5 per cent; the company seeks 7.5 per cent. The difference represents about £400 million a year in profits for British Gas, the market estimates.

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9285 (+0.0088)
German mark 2.8406 (-0.0047)
Exchange Index 92.3 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1803.8 (-4.1)
FT-SE 100 2399.6 (-12.0)
New York Dow Jones 3390.54 (-1.35)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 15910.28 (+354.68)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month Interbank: 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills: 9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 3 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.17-3.18%
30-year bonds: 10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.9285
DM: £1.4800
Sfr: £1.3190
FF: £1.0040
Yen: £1.2730
Index: 92.3
ECU: £0.7827
SDR: £0.7827
SDR: £0.7827
SDR: £0.7827
London Forex market close

GOLD

London: Hong Kong
AM \$357.95 PM \$357.85
Close \$357.50-357.90
\$185.80-186.30
New York: Comex \$ 357.05-357.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Aug) \$20.40/bbl (\$20.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes monthly trading price

MGN uncovers stake built up by O'Reilly

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

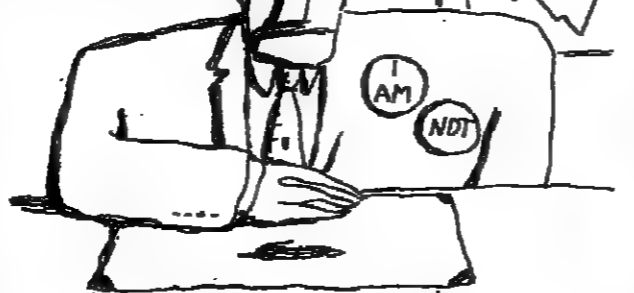
SPECULATION over the future ownership of Mirror Group Newspapers intensified yesterday after the company announced it had fished out a 1.3 per cent holding built up by Independent Newspapers, the Irish newspaper publisher, which is chaired by Tony O'Reilly, the industrialist. Dr O'Reilly is seen as one of the leading contenders for future control of MGN when Arthur Andersen, the administrator of the private Maxwell companies, sells its 55 per cent stake. The Independent Newspapers stake, yesterday valued at £3.6 million, was revealed after MGN sent out a batch of section 212 notices to identify the ultimate owners of shares after heavy dealing in MGN shares last week. An MGN statement said

that Independent Newspapers "is interested in 5.15 million ordinary shares of Mirror Group Newspapers plc representing approximately 1.3 per cent of the company's issued share capital". MGN shares rose 2p to 71p. Dr O'Reilly was unavailable for comment yesterday. However, a spokesman confirmed that he remains interested in bidding for MGN. MGN played down the significance of the stake and said Dr O'Reilly was "just covering his options". More than a dozen approaches are believed to have been made to Arthur Andersen, the accountant, about the controlling stake in MGN, including a management buyout team led by Sir Peter Parker and Richard Stott, the editor of the Daily Mirror.

Lindt allays fears of a sect scandal

BY MARTIN WALLER

SWITZERLAND, land of edelweiss, numbered bank accounts and numbing conformity, likes to think its business affairs are ordered with the regularity of a cuckoo clock. But a corporate eccentricism by accountants of one of the country's best-known businesses suggests all may not be as normal as it seems. The Swiss offshoot of KPMG Peat Marwick, one of the world's biggest accountancy practices, was called in by Lindt & Sprüngli, the Zurich chocolate maker, to confirm to outsiders that Lindt had not been infiltrated by a mysterious sect. The affair bears comparison with the battle between Procter & Gamble and Christian fundamentalists who have claimed, despite



all evidence to the contrary, that the multinational is run by satanists. The Lindt board brought in KPMG Fides for a wide-ranging review after reports in the Swiss press about the proposed marriage of 72, the chairman, to a woman who had belonged to a movement founded in the 1930s in

Austria called "I am." The news led to suggestions that the business, built over five generations, might be in danger of coming under the influence of the sect. I am believes in the realisation of every individual's self and in reincarnation, offering long distance prayer courses for a fee. Dr Sprüngli said he would marry Alexandra

Gantenbein, 44, a one-time sect member. Shortly before the wedding he called it off, saying he had been confronted with facts that forced such a decision. KPMG has given the company a clean bill of health. "The suspicion that the company Lindt & Sprüngli was being infiltrated is untenable in light of the investigation's report," Lindt said. Dr Sprüngli had at no time been a member of a sect and had always been solely responsible for his decisions. But the report did confirm that Frau Gantenbein had gained some importance and influence in decisions over top manager positions. Those decisions, however, were always made by the responsible managers of the company, KPMG decided.

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*Source: FINSTAT. Offer to bid, income increased 1,791 to 1,792. As at 10/7/92. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of this investment and the income from it may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed. This advertisement is issued by Guinness Flight Unit Trust Managers Limited, a member of UMG and LAUTRO.

SE supports Cadbury plan but will not enforce code

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE London Stock Exchange has given its full backing to the recommendations of the Cadbury committee but has made clear it will not attempt to enforce the code of boardroom practice that is its cornerstone. The exchange also doubts whether the full code, which places emphasis on non-executive directors and board committees, is suitable for small companies.

In his formal response to the report, Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, chairman of the exchange, said it intended to fulfil the critical role the report had asked of it, which was to require listed companies to report to shareholders the extent to which they had

complied with the 19-point code and give reasons for any non-compliance.

The exchange's board will be asked to agree to put that requirement into its listing rules. The exchange will also consider whether more detailed interim financial statements should be mandatory, but has not made up its mind.

Sir Andrew says: "Whilst the exchange believes that every listed company should report on its compliance with the code, it does not intend to require compliance since it is the responsibility of shareholders to take whatever action they deem appropriate in the light of the statement of compliance. This is particularly important in the case of smaller companies, for which aspects of the code may be of questionable benefit."

For the same reason, the exchange will not require companies seeking a new quotation to comply with the code, though they must disclose their degree of compliance to potential shareholders in advance in their listing document.

Sir Andrew says that implementation depends on "the wholehearted commitment of all involved in any way in corporate governance". The exchange plans to meet representatives of leading institutional shareholders "to discover what features of the code are of particular interest to them and where evidence of non-compliance by companies in which they hold stakes would prompt them to take action".

The London Stock Exchange was one of the sponsors of the committee into financial aspects of corporate governance, chaired by Sir Adrian Cadbury, and its co-operation was vital if the proposals, which sought a voluntary route to avoid statutory regulation, were to have any hope of succeeding. There will, therefore, be relief at its generally supportive approach, despite its doubts on the universal value of the code.

The Confederation of British Industry, another sponsor, has been critical of the Cadbury proposals, particularly the monitoring role and special duties assigned to non-executive directors. By contrast, institutional shareholders and several accountancy bodies have been sceptical that enforcement of the proposals will be effective. Coopers & Lybrand, the country's biggest accountant, doubted that the few companies distinguished to adopt good standards would change their ways without more robust enforcement. Responses to the committee's report were due by last night.

Ratners delays results

By MICHAEL TATE

RATNERS, the troubled jewellery retailer, has been forced to ask the Stock Exchange for extra time to produce its results for the year ended last February.

Under Stock Exchange regulations, Ratners should have produced its preliminary results by today.

The group blames the protracted negotiations with its lenders over "continuing its existing facilities". The talks, which have been going on for several months, are expected to be concluded "shortly". Ratners says the accounts will be published "as soon as practicable". Yesterday, the company was reluctant to elaborate on the likely timing. However, the Stock Exchange would probably be unhappy if there was no further statement by the end of the month.

The results are expected to reveal losses well in excess of £100 million, possible more than £120 million, after the group gave a warning in May that the figures would include provisions of £98 million. It is also likely that the accounts will be qualified.

Ratners, which has about 30 per cent of the UK jewellery market, has been one of the bigger casualties of the High Street recession. In January, Gerald Ratner relinquished the chair in favour of Jim McAdam. Mr McAdam's strategic review, initiated in January, was said to be nearing completion, and the company's financial position was said not to be in jeopardy.

On the stock market, Ratners shares wobbled, but closed unchanged at 9p.



Voluntary regulation: Sir Adrian Cadbury wins vital stock exchange co-operation

Templeton seals biggest deal

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR John Templeton, the legendary 79-year-old investor, has realised his greatest investment. Templeton Galbraith and Hansberger, the Bahamian fund management company he built from scratch, has agreed to merge with Franklin Resources, a Californian asset management group, for \$913 million.

The merger will create a group with more than \$85 billion under management.

Sir John is selling his 49 per cent stake in the group for \$438 million, including \$60 million in Franklin shares. He has secured a better deal for his shareholders than he has for himself. Public shareholders in Templeton will receive

\$6 a share in cash. The price, at 4.3 per cent of assets under management, is one of the highest ever paid in the industry.

Templeton's main directors, who control 86 per cent of the group's votes, have agreed to take only \$5.69 in shares and cash.

Ten years ago, on a trip to San Francisco, Sir John shared a taxi to the airport with a Franklin marketing chief. He was so impressed by what he heard that he bought 126,000 shares at 30 cents each. Today they are worth \$27, an 8,900 per cent profit.

Sir John insists that the merger does not mean he is retiring. "I have told my wife

that I won't have to work on Saturday afternoons," he says. "But I am becoming the chairman of all the mutual funds that bear my name. I will become more active as an investment manager but less as a business manager."

Templeton's greatest success was investing heavily in Japanese shares in the 1960s, when they traded on earnings multiples of less than four. Five years ago, when the shares were sold, some multiples had risen to more than 100. The firm avoided the Tokyo market crash but is now beginning to buy a few shares again in industrial groups such as Hitachi and Matsushita.

Power chief's pay soars to £348,000

By MARTIN WALLER

THE pay of John Baker, chief executive of National Power, the larger of the two privatised electricity generators, jumped from £135,000 to £348,000 in the year to March 31, the report and accounts show.

His base salary of £246,000, an increase from £85,000, was topped up by a £92,000 performance-related bonus and other taxable benefits. The company was floated on the stock market in the spring of 1991 and the bonus reflected the progress made as a plc, a spokesman said.

The basic salary increase was at the lower end of remuneration for executives of comparably sized companies.

John Wilson, chairman and chief executive of London Electricity, enjoyed a 24 per cent rise in total pay in the year to March 31, the accounts

show. When the preliminary figures were announced last month, Mr Wilson said he had received an 8 per cent salary rise, to £162,000, in line with the award to all of the company's workforce.

London's report and accounts, however, show a rise from £143,000 to £177,000 in Mr Wilson's total emoluments. He is the highest-paid director, taking into account salary and other benefits. A London spokesman said the award had been based on the size of the company, the business it conducted and the need to ensure it could develop "the appropriate calibre of people to run a business of this size".

He added: "Within the context of the salaries of other chairmen of electricity companies, I think this one fits quite well down the league."

Pepe defers paying preference payout

By COLIN CAMPBELL

PEPE Group, the jeans manufacturer that gave a warning in June that it was unlikely to pay a final ordinary dividend, said yesterday that it will postpone payment of a preference dividend for three months. The preference dividend fell due for payment yesterday.

The board said it needs to concentrate its efforts on the core Pepe brand, which would require significant investment in marketing and sales, and an increase in its equity base. Talks with its principal shareholders are already under way. The shares fell 5p to 24p.

Pepe blames difficult trading conditions worldwide which have affected its international operations. In the warning given in June, Pepe alerted the market that results for the year to end March

Building recovery ruled out until 1994

By DEREK HARRIS

MORE gloomy forecasts for the construction industry, with recession effects worsening this year and no signs of recovery until 1994, will put new pressures on the government over interest rates and the allocation of tight public spending.

The construction industry, in line with the Confederation of British Industry, is urging the government to restrict public sector pay increases so that infrastructure spending can escape the axe.

The £9 billion-a-year civil engineering sector is threatened by weakening order books. Building materials producers, whose sales are running at £20 billion a year, are equally anxious about possible danger to the future of big planned construction projects. The most immediate is the Jubilee underground extension to Docklands, followed by British Rail schemes, such as the London Liverpool Street to Paddington cross-rail link.

The drag effect of the beleaguered commercial sector, where offices, and to a lesser extent, retail properties, are in over-supply, had been expected, but there is now increasing gloom over other sectors that had been expected to perform reasonably well this year.

This is the view of the National Council of Building Material Producers (BMP), which has now marked down the recovery point for construction from the end of next year to well into 1994. A 25 per cent decline in the private commercial sector is forecast for this year, with another 15 per cent slide next year and a further 5 per cent drop in 1994.

BMP expects construction this year to see output falls of 8 per cent against the 4 per cent it predicted when the general election was expected to boost confidence. It had also underestimated how far interest rates would stay high and scupper hopes of a decline in British rates.

With consumer confidence still dented, private housing output is expected to be 9 per cent down this year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Airedale pre-tax loss deepens to £125m

AIREDALE, the parent company of the Magnet kitchens and retail and trade building products group, yesterday revealed a £125 million loss before tax (£119 million loss) in the year to end-March on sales down from £225 million to £187 million. The group says its accounts have drawn up on a "going concern basis", which assumes that it will continue to receive support from its bankers. The interest charge was almost unchanged at £94.7 million and the group said it continued to receive the full support of its senior lenders. Capital and interest payments going back to the 1989 £629 million management buyout are rolled up until December 31 when the existing borrowing arrangements are due to expire. Directors say they are confident that new arrangements will be put in place well before then. The operating loss grew from £23.5 million to £27 million although the group says overheads were £14 million lower than in the previous year. The group charged an exceptional item of £3.4 million for introducing a new bedroom range.

Worthington cash call

WORTHINGTON Group, the sewing threads manufacturer, is making two acquisitions for £2.25 million, funded by a rights issue on the basis of three-for-four at 31.5p a share. The company paid its first interim dividend in a decade in January, and now declares a final dividend of 1.1p, making 1.4p (0.75p). Pre-tax profits for the year ended March were £462,000 (£514,000) on turnover of £9.25 million (£7.21 million). Worthington will buy Hulme Holmberg and Atorp, makers of straight and bias bindings and related products.

DBS turnover doubles

THE DBS Management group, which includes Britain's largest network of independent financial advisers, reported a virtually doubled turnover at £25.6 million and a 57 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £1.46 million for the year ended March. The dividend is raised from 6p to 8p a share. Ken Davy, the chairman, said the number of members within the network rose from 453 to 723 during the year, and has risen since to more than 800. The full benefits of higher membership will be reflected in the current year, he added.

ICA adjourns hearing

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants has adjourned the hearing of allegations of professional misconduct against Michael Jordan and Richard Stone of Coopers & Lybrand. The hearing was over a complaint that they had a conflict of interest when they took on the administration of Polly Peck International. The Institute's disciplinary committee had set aside five days for the hearing but this has proved insufficient. The hearing is unlikely to be resumed before October.

Misys buys two firms

MISYS, the computer services group, is buying Specialist Computer Software Systems and Specialist Computer Peripherals and Maintenance for an aggregate £2.87 million. SCSS designs and develops software for libraries, charities, national membership organisations and carpet manufacturers and distributors. SCPM undertakes hardware maintenance services. The two companies will form part of the computer solutions division of Misys.

Losses at Enterprise

ENTERPRISE Computers has slumped back into loss and is passing its final dividend. The computer services group unveiled £8.33 million pre-tax losses for the 15 months to March, against a profit of £7.53 million for the previous 12 months. This is after £5.33 million exceptional provisions, relating to restructuring and the write-down of stocks. But it does not include £23 million of extraordinary charges, largely involving a write-off of goodwill, which has left a net loss of £29.2 million for the period.

ICI shares fall back on possible downgrading

ICI shares fell back 8p to 116 1/2p yesterday after Standard & Poor's, the credit rating agency, said that because of questions raised by the chemical group's plans to demerge its pharmaceutical operations it may downgrade the ratings on some of the company's debt.

Standard & Poor's said approximately \$2.6 billion of long-term ICI debt was affected by the decision to put senior unsecured debt and commercial paper on creditwatch. Senior unsecured debt is rated at AA minus and commercial paper is rated at A-1 plus.

The Standard & Poor's statement said: "Although the future capital structures of the two companies have not yet been determined, we expect that a large portion of existing debt will remain at ICI. Given the cyclical and lower profitability of the industrial chemical operations, a rating downgrade of this debt is possible."

RECENT ISSUES

Anglian Group 5p (210)	208	+5
Brent Walker Ws	21	...
Dreyer A	19	...
Euro Smir Co Ltd (500)	473	...
Finchway Smir Co Ltd (145)	145	...
HSBC HK10 (351)	356	-7
Henderson Eurotrust Ord 63
do Eurotrust Units	92	...
do Eurotrust Zero Pft	29	-1
Kerwood App 10p (285)	285	...
Kiwort Endl Pft (100)	102	...
Latin Amer Inc/APP (£100) 59

RIGHTS ISSUES

BET n/p (110)	...
Burnfield 10p n/p (165)	3
Hobson 5p n/p (5p)	...
Jeyes Group 5p n/p (385)	63
Kode Intl n/p (100)	11

MAJOR CHANGES

SA Breweries	740p (+20p)
Manders	239p (+10p)
Worthington & Dud	524p (+7p)
Lon Int	185p (+15p)
MEPC	236p (+10p)
FALLS:	
Lloyds	401p (-23p)
Body Shop	391p (-7p)
Argos	219p (-8p)
Allied Colloids	186p (-8p)
Nat West	318p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 23

Lloyds' apparent success marred by feet of clay



Steering a profitable course: Brian Pitman of Lloyds

BY MOST financial measures, Lloyds Bank is a success. The bank is trading through the worst recession since the thirties but is still achieving a return on capital of more than 16 per cent, the envy of most of the world's banks.

Lloyds' half-year results emphasise the strength of its business and its management. Pre-tax profits rose 12 per cent to £369 million, a figure that is likely to confirm its position as Britain's most profitable bank, while there is a 9 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 5.9p.

The bank's immediate future is secured by its bountiful Third World provisions. At the end of the half year, it had a £930 million surplus of provisions over the book value of its Third World debt, and much of this is likely to be written back into profits in the next three years.

Nevertheless, Lloyds' latest results suggest it may have feet of clay, despite its apparent strengths. The bleak feature is a 6 per cent fall in income to £1.89 billion. Lloyds, like Midland, has discovered belatedly that it cannot take an axe to its costs and its branch network

in a recession without suffering a slump in business.

Lloyds' strategy, formulated and executed by Brian Pitman, chief executive, has committed the bank to the British retail financial services market. But this sector is deeply competitive and unlikely to offer much growth for the rest of the decade.

So, the bank needs an acquisition where it can rationalise, revitalise the management and boost income by selling life and pensions policies. Midland refused to play and there are few other suitable candidates in the banking sector. The most exciting move would be a merger with a northern building society, which would fill in the holes in the bank's branch network.

Lloyds' year-end profits depend on the international debt negotiations with Argentina. If they succeed, the bank will be able to write back up to £150 million of its Third World debt provisions. If not, profits should still reach £750 million by the end of the year. This puts the bank on a p/e ratio of almost 13. The yield, on a forecast dividend of 18.5p, is more

than 6 per cent. The high price reflects the generous returns Lloyds has always provided for its shareholders, but the shares should not be chased until the bank settles the questions about its future.

Lex Services

LEX Services will have been up at the crack of dawn today waiting on the forecourt to herald K-day.

The staff should have been in a reasonably jolly mood, for not only has the incidence of pre-ordering through its dealerships already been marginally higher than last August, but also interim profits for the first half of 1992 show a marked improvement in group fortunes.

Lex's pre-tax income at £16 million, compared with £4.2 million, was at least £3 million above expectations, and the considerably stronger balance sheet was welcomed by analysts.

The profits advance was due in part to the swing from losses to profit by the contract hire leasing division, and there was a much stronger performance from the

group's residual interest in Arrow Electronics.

Lex is now more clearly focused on automotive distribution and leasing and intends to expand within its traditional fields. The overall headcount is 7 per cent down year-on-year and net debt has been pulled back from £57 million to £19 million, equivalent to 7.8 per cent of shareholders' funds.

The group's retail arm now has 81 franchised outlets representing 20 car manufacturers and the group has maintained its share of the total new car market.

The K-day bid for new cars may not last long this year if the economy fails to pick up soon, but with a cost base under tighter control and a reasonable amount of orders already in hand, the outlook for year-end profits remains encouraging.

Profits could reach £26 million, compared with a restated £500,000 profit, which would see a maintained year's distribution of 10p a share covered 1.7 times. The shares rose 11p to 214p on improved fortunes, and trade on 12.6 times prospective earnings. They still have fans.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Here was Lord Stevens in his element — a media magnate in the same league as Murdoch, Black and Rothmans. That was the image, the reality is somewhat different: for while Stevens certainly manages United Newspapers, his control of it, after the Maxwell affair, is at risk.

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

150-150

BUSINESS PROFILE: Michael Pickard

Portrait of the happy eater's career menu

Carol Leonard finds the big man who stood alone against Hanson keeps business and friends firmly apart

The first thing you notice about Michael Pickard, the chairman of London Docklands Development Corporation, and, until March, chief executive of Sears, the Selfridges-to-British Shoe Corporation combine, is his height. He is very tall, six feet four-and-a-half inches, with extraordinarily long legs, a straight back and a curious upright, slightly stiff, gait. Pickard is all too aware of the fact that people are frequently pre-occupied by his size. He has, he says, just come from a meeting with two government ministers and there were three references to it in the first ten minutes. The fact that he was counting, however, betrays his sensitivity. "I get comments about my height all the time," he says. If he is sensitive, though, it has faded with age. Pickard, 60, was six feet tall by the age of 11 and reached his present height at 15.

"Too many businessmen have woken up one day and found they have no friends"

"Once your strength grows into your height it does give you stature and that gives you some advantage. You have to learn to use it. The minus when you are 11 becomes a plus when you are 25." That minus, when he was 11, was all too real. It made his preparatory school years a misery. "It's hard to believe now, but I was known as a streak because I was so thin, and, because I was so tall, I was very weak. It's very difficult when you grow so tall as a young age because everybody treats you as if you are older. You fought a permanent battle to be treated your age. It must have been quite a strong character building factor."

As he speaks, Pickard looks at least five years younger than his years, yet his manner is that of a man from an older generation. He

is known throughout British industry for being a gentleman, a gentle giant perhaps, the sort of person who would leap to his feet to open the door for a lady, is always polite, wears highly polished shoes and sends thank you letters on time.

Jane, his wife, who once worked with him to develop and run the Happy Eater restaurant chain — "I was the marketing director," she says, "but I only got involved because it all started in our own kitchen, literally" — nods in agreement. "He is thoughtful, kind and generous," she says. "He works very hard, he always has done, but equally he plays extremely hard. And he is a very positive person. I remember when he was turned off the Trusthouse Forte board, in a very bad manner. That night I said what are we going to do? He said just keep smiling and carry on."

Pickard did precisely that and, perhaps because he had a point to

prove, his success was extraordinary. His two-year career at Trusthouse Forte — he was responsible for the concept and development of the Little Chef restaurant chain — had come to an abrupt end in 1971 because of what his wife calls "a

clash of personality with Lord Forte". As Pickard smiled through adversity he also went on to create Little Chef's rival, Happy Eater. At one stage, not only his wife but two of his four children were in the business and his fortune was made. When Happy Eater had 25 outlets and required further capital, Pickard entered a joint venture with Courage. That ended with him being asked to join the Courage board, as chairman of both Courage and Imperial Brewing and Leisure. "I have certainly lived



A successful family partnership: Michael and Jane Pickard relaxing at their home near Tadworth, Surrey

through major ups and downs. I have gone from running a big business to building up small ones, and if you have a rock of Gibraltar in terms of family and friends behind you, you are remarkably insular to the knocks in life." Pickard is referring to the fact that he has kept his business and private lives in two different spheres, and has always lived within eight miles of the present family home near Tadworth, Surrey. "It means that I still have all my friends from my rugby and cricketing days and whether you have good or bad days, you are still the same to all those people. You do have to work at it, they need to be cherished and looked after, both with family and friends, and many people do not work at it. I have known too many businessmen who have woken up one day and found they have no friends."

The value Pickard places on friendship will surprise those who have encountered him in business. To them he comes across as a man with a bluff exterior but who, beyond that, is difficult to get to know. He thinks about this, but does not disagree. "I think your business relationships are necessarily a bit more formal. My father always said work hard and play hard, but make sure you always know when you are doing which, and I think that is absolutely right."

His wife, who has since helped to build up another 30-strong restaurant chain, AJ Family Restaurants, is similarly thoughtful. "I remember when Michael was 50 and the Happy Eater team had a portrait done of him. I thought it was brilliant because I could see it was the chairman, just as he looked when he conducted board meetings. But

our friends took one look and said that's not the Michael we know." Her eyes drift off as she visualises the portrait. "I suppose he is quite solemn in it. His hands are shown in it too. He uses them all the time, especially if he is trying to make a point. Whenever anyone does a caricature of him they also show these big hands, but he doesn't use them at all at home."

Pickard uses his hands animatedly when he discusses the economy — "It's going to be very tough, there's no short cut, it's going to be a slow recovery, with new yardsticks because what we have is the norm rather than the exception" — and the future of Docklands. As his wife comments that he has always liked a challenge, Pickard, who became chairman of the LDDC in March,

with his salary dropping from £250,000 at Sears to £35,000 at the LDDC — paints a picture of life as a tapestry into which you should cram as many experiences as possible. "I don't think you have the full picture until you have been in public office," he adds that the future of Canary Wharf will have to be settled one way or another by the end of September, and says the LDDC has been "oiling the wheels". He is critical of the absence of road and rail infrastructure but hopeful that the Jubilee Line extension will be built. Now working five days a week on LDDC, instead of the anticipated three, his management style is, he says, that of a delegator, a conceptual manager rather than an operational one. "One of the worst sins of a manager is to be afraid of picking good people. I'm a reasonably com-

petent general manager but I do not have special skills in any one area so that is what I need. But I must be careful not to tread on their toes. My job is to challenge, but not threaten them. The people who would complain most about working with me are finance directors. They would say I half do their job and are probably right."

Pickard, educated at Oundle School, trained as an accountant with David Parsons, now part of Coopers & Lybrand. He left the day he qualified. "I would have been a hopeless accountant. I'm not very good at writing long reports, but I always say to my children if you want a short cut, become an accountant, if you want to do it the long way, you'll have to work your way up from the bottom." An only child, Pickard's own father hoped he would join the family business, a Surrey motor dealership, but he rebelled, as his father had. Pickard's grandfather, Sir Robert Pickard, was an eminent chemist. A motor dealership could not have been further removed.

Ask anyone in the City about Michael Pickard's career and they will almost certainly say its highlight came when he, alone among Imperial's non-executive directors, urged the board to fight the Hanson bid. It was, they will say, his finest hour, when he publicly displayed his true spirit — a spirit recognised by his non-business friends. But standing pointedly aside are retail analysts, who chartered his progress at Sears and claim he left it in poor shape. They would point to his varied career and suggest he must be disappointed. "He never quite made it, never became chairman of a large blue chip concern," said one.

But Pickard gives no hint of disappointment. His career is exactly as he would have chosen. He is, he says, happiest when building new companies, not running large old ones. Any assumption that he must have been promised the Sears chair is wrong. "I only ever went in as the chief executive and I was always going to retire when I was 60, that was the deal I struck when I joined." His wife springs to his defence. "It always irritates me when people say he never quite made it. I say just look at all that he has achieved."

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Redundies celebrate a New Age by cashing in and dropping out

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer believes his critics are "up the creek". His tormentors think much the same about the Chancellor. Perhaps, in the interests of accord, we should simply split the difference and agree that the one thing definitely up the creek is Britain.

As to the location of the paddle, permit any one of three — Brussels, Bonn or the building societies. In short, nowhere that might help get the country out of the boundless recessionary waters that the CBI says we are adrift in.

After nine quarters of declining economic activity, the picture is all too familiar — flat order books, falling output and rising unemployment. The gloom seems endless. But is it? Deep in the murk, something curious has started to stir.

All over Britain, it appears, growing bands of people are rejecting this constant diet of despair. They no longer care whether the International Monetary Fund believes monetary union will cut growth by half a percentage point or so a year — still less wonder how anyone will notice.

No, they believe the current economic system has become totally corrupt. And in a week where even the Thames and Chiltern regional tourist board has been forced into liquidation, you have to admit they may have a point.

In its place they are evolving an alternative economic system, that brings people and wealth closer together through large, lump-sum payments. This New Economic Age, they say, belongs to the redundants.

The trend is certainly catching on. A company only has to say that it sees no end to the current recession and it is besieged by would-be redundants anxious to participate in the corporate cost-cutting exercise.

BT is emerging as a favoured starting point for the nineties' career traveller. Pre-tax profits may be falling sharply as recession finally cuts down the number of calls we make, but the company's redundancy programme, Release '92, is that the company this week announced that 29,000 staff would be leaving rather than the 20,000 originally planned



and financially provided for. With a further £200 million laded into the redundancy pot to cope with demand, BT has brought forward plans to help more of its 175,000 remaining staff on to the open road next year through a new scheme, Disconnected '93.

With pay-offs of up to three years' salary available for senior staff, BT had no comment to make on suggestions that Iain Vallance, its £465,000-a-year chairman, had been turned down by the Release programme, thwarting his plan to become chief economic druid.

Unemployment at its highest levels for five years is apparently no deterrent to redundants, whose cavalier approach to life is best captured by a new nineties mantra — cash in and drop out.

Like BT, IBM has experienced huge demand for its redundancy programme, Log-off '92, with incentives that include a year's salary. As a result, the computer giant will now be saying farewell to 32,000 staff around the world, rather than the 20,000 it expected, with Britain taking most of the lucrative European opportunities for a spot of lifestyle reprogramming. While some com-

panies have had a progressive New Age policy for some time (British Coal's programme, Scarpill '85, has been astonishingly successful, having offered career rebirthing opportunities to around 170,000 miners in seven years and still going strong), others are relatively new converts.

Nuclear Electric, as late converts so often do, has embraced the idea with vigour. It introduced its programme, Half-life 2000, this week, immediately setting aside £250 million to cover the decommissioning of the first tranche of its workforce — some 3,500 out of 12,500 — over the next three years.

But what is really impressive is that Nuclear Electric has raised the money — and then some — by a compulsory levy of all electricity customers. That brought almost £1.3 billion into the lead-lined corporate coffers and prevented the company from making a distinctly Old Age loss of £775 million.

Inevitably, a few members of the reactionary old guard such as ICI (which this week launched its own vision of the future under the alternative banners, Split-in-Half '93 or Hanson '91) have been grumbling about subsidising the

nuclear generator's largesse. Nuclear Electric responded in New Age style, saying it hoped ICI would see the light, given that the chemical group had already paid for it.

But voluntary redundancy programmes are merely the starting point for the new life. After that, the open road beckons — where convoys of three-year-old BMWs and Cavaliers mix freely with old BT vans combing suburbia for suitable locations to hold the sort of event that tens of thousands of redundants now live for — the all-night "save" parties.

Favoured venues are prominent executives' homes, equipped with large gardens and swimming pools, and preferably with the mortgage paid off as part of the compensation package or, at the very least, reduced to a tax-efficient £30,000.

As the "save" gets under way, the Nuclear Electric redundants turn up, their Range Rovers and Volvo estates readily identifiable by the "We holidayed at Sizewell" and "Nuclear power workers do it all aglow" stickers in the rear windows.

Fueled by a seemingly endless supply of Tio Pepe, gin and champagne, the conversation level quickly rises above the pretty, unrelenting tinkle of *Twenty Classic Favourites*. All is calm, all is relaxed, save for the minor irritation of repeated interruptions from the income plan peddlars, with their promises of mind-bendingly high levels of investment return. Bond-washers, as they are known to the new agers.

Although entry is free to all redundants, there have been reports of some unpleasantness from laid-off construction workers trying to gate-crash. The ultra-successful Sorry Lads '89 campaign may have got rid of 260,000 workers in the past three years — and should see the back of a further 50,000 by Christmas — but it has not brought them a brighter future. Lumps sums are in, the lump is not.

Back at Number 10, the prime minister is apparently much taken with New Age thinking and well advanced on plans to introduce something similar into government offices. The working title, apparently, is *Reshuffle '92*. I wonder who will be first to get his name on the list.

Lloyds Bank results for the first half of 1992

"The improvement in profits over the past six months reflects a welcome reduction in provisions for larger companies and third world debt. Continued recession in the UK led to a decline in retail banking income, which was offset by better results elsewhere and tight control of costs."

Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman

	Half-year to 30 June 1992 (unaudited) £m	Half-year to 30 June 1991 £m	Half-year to 31 December 1991 £m
Profit before tax	369	331	314
Tax	123	104	92
Profit after tax	246	227	222
Minority interests	40	44	48
Profit before extraordinary items	206	183	174
Extraordinary items	—	—	45
Profit attributable to shareholders	206	183	219
Dividends	75	67	142
Post-tax return on average shareholders' equity	16.3%	15.6%	14.0%
Earnings per share	16.4p	14.7p	13.9p
Dividends per share	5.9p	5.4p	11.3p

Financial information for the year ended 31 December 1991 is based on the statutory accounts for 1991 which have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies. The auditors' report on these accounts was unqualified and did not include a statement under sections 237(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 1985.

An interim dividend of 5.9p per share will be paid on 15 October 1992 to shareholders registered on 20 August 1992. Shareholders will be offered the choice of taking ordinary shares instead of the cash dividend.

Copies of the news release may be obtained from Investor Relations, Lloyds Bank, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Telephone: 071-356 1711.



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50/12/92

- COMPANY CAR TAX 20
- LETTERS 20
- NEWS IN BRIEF 21
- GOING FOR GOLD 21

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1992

19

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Abbey adopts banking habits

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR



The conversion of Abbey National to a bank appears to be truly complete. Next week, it will announce even larger bad debt provisions for the first half of 1992 than it did for the previous six months, and no wonder.

Anyone who witnessed the scene in one of its branches yesterday, as a customer tried to pay off his debt to the former building society would have been amazed.

Customer enters small branch with cash and Link card in hand. He explains to counter clerk that he has tried to pay money into his account through the automated teller machine but that it would not accept his £10 notes.

The counter clerk gave one of those knowing looks reserved for technical incompetents and tried to access his account herself. The account was closed, she said, and she could not accept the money.

Yes, agreed the customer. The Abbey had closed it because he was overdrawn. He was now trying to pay off part of that overdraft. Sorry, came the reply. He could not do that.

She could only accept £9.97 and the rest was written off. How much was he overdrawn by, she asked. About £1,000, came the reply to the by now hushed branch.

The customer said he was not going to argue with the staff. He had done his bit.

Abbey head office was surprised by the incident. Customers were usually informed when a debt was written off. The bank only took such steps when a debt was irretrievable, its spokesman said.

Later on, the bank said that the sum had been transferred to a different computer system. This was done to stop interest accruing. The branch manager would be writing to the customer to tell him that the debt had not, after all, been written off and efforts would be made to make a firm arrangement for him to pay off the money.

It seems a shame that greater

efforts had not been made to keep in touch with such a customer and to deal with his desire to pay up. The Abbey has £9.97, when he was offering £40. By the time the letter arrives from the manager, the Abbey will be fortunate if the £30.03 has not been spent in a celebration of its generosity.

I do not suppose that the customer went out to buy shares in the bank if it deals so lightly with a £1,000 overdraft.

Shareholders and other customers, who pay for any sums written off, have to hope that he will

still be as willing to pay off his debts, having been given the impression that they no longer exist.

Unfair trade

Insurance companies do put up a good fight. Just as it looked as if their customers might soon obtain more information on the true cost of buying an insurance policy, they are dragging their feet and saying it is unfair and anti-competitive.

They are saying to anyone who will listen, and that includes the

director general of fair trading who asked for views this week, that they do not see why they should give information about how their costs and expenses reduce their investment performance if banks and building societies do not do so.

Of course, banks and building societies will have to give similar information on investment products sold by their branches. What they do not have to point out is what the margin is between money market rates and what they pay to savers. This margin is the cost to savers, they say. They are obfuscating the issue, as only insurance companies can.

Building society and bank savers do not stand the risk of losing all or most of their savings if they try to make a withdrawal in the first two or three years, as insurance policyholders can if they surrender in the early days. Savers are told clearly at the outset of any penalties that might

reduce their building society or bank pay out. Ninety-day accounts can charge 90 days' interest, if the saver withdraws without giving due notice. Tessa accounts lose their freedom from tax if withdrawals are made early. The interest rate is given both gross and after tax is deducted. Customers have to keep a watch to make sure that the rate on their account is not reduced out of line with other products. If it is, they can and do take their money elsewhere.

The main gripe of the insurers is that they do not want to give customers any information that might deter a sale. They complain that money is staying in building society accounts that should be going into the equities market. Societies have not noticed their riches. They expect to report a negative outflow for the second month running when all the figures are in for July.

The Office of Fair Trading is looking for comments by early September. It must be hoped that it will stand up to the might of the insurance industry, which has got its own way for too long.

More than a million homes worth less than loan

Mortgage debts spell misery for thousands

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

IN THE first six months of this year, more than 13,000 voluntarily gave up the keys of their homes to their mortgage lenders, according to figures published this week. Some people were not behind with payments, but they could not face the growing debt involved with home ownership.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders now estimates that there are "probably above one million" home owners whose mortgages are higher than the value of their properties. These are potentially as great a problem for the housing market as the 305,000 borrowers six months or more in arrears. While there is some crossover with the separate statistics for people with negative equity in their property, the vast majority are not in arrears.

Earlier this year, the Council of Mortgage Lenders estimated that 380,000 first-time buyers were affected. It has now revised its calculations upwards and accepts that until house prices stop falling, the number will increase every month.

Most are continuing to pay their full mortgage payments and many do not know their debts outstrip their assets. Sometimes, the first indication is when a neighbour sells their home or they try to re-mortgage to obtain a cheaper mortgage rate, want to add an extension or to move house.

One such family, Paul and Sandra Awcock, bought their one-bedroom flat in Littlehampton, Sussex, in early 1989 for £45,000. They took out a mortgage with the National & Provincial for £52,950.

When the flat was recently valued, they were told the most they could expect to get in today's market is £27,000. The couple who have a 10-month old son, Thomas, and would like to plan to have another child, need to move, but are unable to do so.

"However, whilst we have no financial difficulties in meeting the commitment of a slightly larger mortgage, it is impossible for us to raise the shortfall of almost £16,000."

When Mr and Mrs Awcock first approached the N&P to

find out how their dilemma might be resolved, they were advised by the branch to surrender the keys and give up their home. Mr Awcock says that they would not consider this, as it would have meant them deliberately making themselves homeless. They would not then have qualified for state housing and might be unable to get a mortgage again.

When they went back to the building society, they were told there might be a scheme "in the future" that would allow people to sell at a loss, take on an unsecured loan for the difference at a favourable rate, and to buy a new property.

When approached by *Weekend Money*, the society said that it could not offer a loan to cover the loss on the property. The Building Societies Act limited unsecured loans to £10,000 and N&P only offers unsecured loans up to £7,500. "Even if they could get an unsecured loan to meet the shortfall we feel it would be bad advice," a spokeswoman said. "We feel sympathy but they should sit tight and wait for the market to improve."

It could be a long wait. Adrian Coles, chief economist at the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said that people in this situation would have a long wait until they could sell at no loss. "They won't be able to move this decade," he added. Mr

Awcock has written to John Major, the prime minister, Sir Michael Marshall, his member of Parliament, and David O'Brien, chief executive of the N&P, pointing out the family's dilemma and that there are many more people in the same situation.

"We could afford to increase our mortgage by £200 a month, but an unsecured loan for £16,000 would cost £300-£400. That would be impossible."

The family has acted impeccably as borrowers. When Mr Awcock was made redundant, they managed to keep up their payments and only cut their monthly payments for three months when his wife was off work to have their son. She returned to work as a practice nurse as soon as she could and

they have a childminder to look after Thomas.

Mr Awcock now works as a recruitment consultant and the couple have no arrears. "We are not poor or rich but we are being penalised because we bought in a boom. When we first started planning a family two years ago, we talked with the society and were advised to throw in the keys. Since then, we have been advised by the society that it is more commonplace and that we would not get away with it."

Many of the borrowers whose loans are higher than their property values are trying heroically to pay off their debt. One couple with a baby have moved back with parents and rented out their flat. They are now saving furiously to build up £9,000 to pay back their lender the difference between the value of their flat and their £61,000 mortgage so that they can start again. They are aware that its value is probably falling faster than they can save.

Another borrower who bought her second flat in 1990, for £60,000, with a £57,000 loan has rented out the property after moving to a larger flat. She has savings but

does not want to take a £10,000 loss by selling at the current market value. Lenders are worried that many more people will be tempted to abandon their properties and try to start again with another lender before it is discovered that they have left a property.

The Rowntree Trust says that more than 40,000 properties have been abandoned by borrowers who dare not give in the keys because they will be pursued for the shortfall on the loans.

Shelter's *Roof* magazine estimates that 20 per cent of those who give up their home without a court order are abandonments.

Others may pretend they are having difficulty with the payments for a few months before they hand over the keys. In this way they hope to persuade their lenders and the insurance company providing indemnity cover that they are in hardship and not worth suing for the shortfall.

Since last autumn, the Council of Mortgage Lenders has had a register of people who have defaulted on mortgages. Those who abandoned a property would find it difficult to borrow from a member of the organisation.

However, Mark Bolat, director general of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said that having a home repossessed would not prevent people from getting a mortgage in the future. Lenders would be sympathetic in cases of hardship, when people had sorted out their financial problems.

Nationwide Building Society plans to launch a formal scheme to help its borrowers whose homes are worth less than their mortgages. This could enable borrowers to transfer their additional debt to a new property. Borrowers



Feeling the mortgage pinch: Sandra and Paul Awcock with their son Thomas

ments who are identified as having a shortfall may be written to by the society and asked if they want to make larger payments to reduce their debt.

The second-largest society has already helped 200 home owners with mortgages larger than the value of their properties to move. "They were people who desperately needed to move for their job or because of marriage break up."

Each one was dealt with carefully on an individual basis. The Halifax, the largest mortgage lender, does not offer a package to help people with negative equity, although it has helped individuals where it is in the interest of both parties. David Gilchrist, Halifax group general manager, said: "If someone were to lose his job in location A and was likely to go into arrears we might be able to help him to move to location B, if there was a possibility of a job there. If an employer were moving someone, they should be able to get help in the form of an interest-free loan from the employer."

Mr Gilchrist said the society did not know how many of its 1.8 million borrowers had loans larger than the value of their properties. It was not in the interests of the borrowers to have this recognised, he said, because the society would then have to charge a higher unsecured loan rate on the part of the loan that was in excess of the property value.

The Woolwich Building Society has no scheme for people wanting to move in these circumstances. Frank Bartlett, general manager, lending, said: "People with negative equity have to recognise that they will have to stay put until the market recovers. If someone wants to sell their home for less than the mortgage, we will not accept it. We will not accept the redemption of the mortgage."

Lenders are worried that if they make unsecured loans available, borrowers might stop paying such loans if they faced any financial difficulties in the future and there would be little they could do to force payment. With a secured loan, such as a mortgage, the lender has the sanction of evicting the

Home owners shun rescue packages

ALMOST eight months after the government announcement that mortgage rescue schemes would keep thousands of borrowers in difficulties with payments in their homes, a total of 25 home owners are believed to have benefited from the schemes (Lindsay Cook writes).

Abbey National, which expects to complete 20 rescues by the end of next month, said that on Thursday eight families had transferred from being owners of their homes to being tenants of the bank's housing association.

However, the bank has found that many people do not want to be rescued.

About half of those approached by the second-largest mortgage lender have said they were not interested, a spokesman said.

"Many said they did not want to be tenants. They compared the rent with the mortgage payments and did not feel there was sufficient difference, and many believed they would be borderline cases for getting housing benefit to help with their rent payments."

The Abbey estimates that it has completed as many mortgages into rents deals as the rest of the lenders together.

Shelter estimates that no more than 25 conversions have taken place so far.

Evelyn and Raymond Sarjant of Uppminster, Essex, will sign the forms to convert their Abbey National mortgage into rent on Monday. The couple, who have five children, aged seven to 17, took out a £95,000 mortgage on their three-bedroom home two years ago. By changing to tenants, they are saving about £200 a month. Mrs Sarjant said: "The couple had got into arrears after she lost her job."

"We did not know that we would qualify until a phone call with Colin Payne, of the Billericay mortgage administration centre. He sent us a budget to fill in. Estate agents came to do a valuation and last Friday we were told that we had been accepted for the scheme."

"The house stops being ours in September. We can buy back after six months. But I don't know what will happen. We are just delighted that we can stay in our home. The council would have rehoused us, but it could have been anywhere."

The couple also received help from the money advice unit of Havering council.

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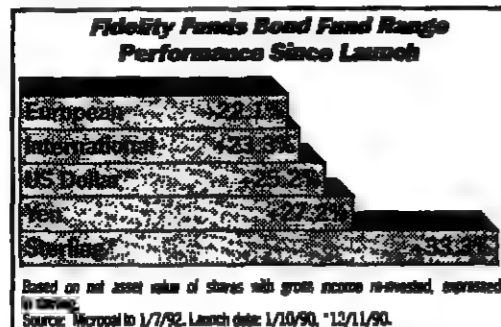
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Revenue drives to change tax

By SARA MCCONNELL

DRIVERS of expensive company cars will have to pay over 40 per cent more tax for the privilege, if Inland Revenue proposals published this week are implemented.

About 200,000 expensively equipped cars in the price range £15,500 to £19,499, with engines just below 2,000 cc, will be hardest hit by the proposals to tax company cars according to price.

The Chancellor said in this year's Budget that he planned to change the way company cars, available for private use, were taxed. At present the tax is calculated mainly on engine size, combined with original market value for cars worth more than £19,250.

Figures from Stoy Benefit Consulting show the impact of the proposals in more detail. An area manager driving 15,000 business miles a year in a Ford Sierra 2.0i Ghia with a list price of £17,394 (to



Perk or privilege: company car drivers face higher tax

keep an employee under the £19,250 threshold) would pay tax of £3,865 a year, 40 per cent more than the present £2,770.

By contrast, a junior executive doing 10,000 miles a year in a Vauxhall Cavalier 1.6 costing £10,572 would cut the bill by 15 per cent to £2,350. All these figures use the Revenue assumption that the pro-

posed scale charge will be two-ninths of the list price for employees doing medium business mileage of between 2,500 and 18,000 a year.

The current system groups all company cars costing up to £19,250 in the same scale, varying the tax charge by engine size and the amount of business mileage done in a year. This means that inex-

pensive cars like the Ford Fiesta 1.8 diesel and the Vauxhall Astra 1.7 diesel, costing about £9,000, fall into the same car scale band as the Mercedes Benz 190 and the BMW 520i, both of which cost about £19,000.

Companies have no incentive to provide employees with more fuel-efficient cars under the present system. The Revenue said: "A price structure would tend to favour cheaper and, therefore, generally speaking, lower performance and more fuel-efficient cars."

The government is keen to use the retail list price as a base for assessing tax. Using the actual cost to the employer could be difficult as many employers lease cars. Those who do buy cars can negotiate discounts with makers. They could also find ways of artificially depressing prices to bring down the tax bill. A third option is to base the tax on the original market price, as with cars costing more than £19,250.

LETTERS

Customer rights and direct debits

From Mrs V. Puddicombe
Sir, A letter from Mr Ray J. Wright ("Dating a direct debit mandate", July 18) highlighted one problem with the direct debiting system.

A few months ago, our bank met an unauthorised direct debit request from our building society. By chance, we discovered the error early. The mistake started with the building society's request, but the payment was made automatically. The building society had quoted the correct sort code and account number, and therefore no check was made against a mandate because the amount involved was less than £500.

Whilst appreciating the scale of the direct debiting system, should bank customers not have better protection against unauthorised third party access to their accounts? Or has a fundamental principle of banking been sacrificed, without customers' knowledge, to administrative convenience? Yours faithfully, VERONICA PUDDICOMBE, 27 Longlands Drive, Heybrook Bay, Plymouth, Devon.



Welcome for Taurus

From Mr A. H. B. Franklin
Sir, Judging by the effort required to convince the National Westminster Bank registrars at Bristol that we have moved, the sooner Taurus is operating the better. Yours faithfully, A. H. B. FRANKLIN Hill House, 8 Breedons Hill, Pangbourne, Berkshire.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

The trust route to holding shares

From Mr Paul Manduca

Sir, I was saddened to read that Matthew Gaved and Anthony Goodman, in their report for the Social Market Foundation "Deeper Share Ownership" (Weekend Money, July 18), appear to have fallen for the hoary old chestnut that all collective investments deprive the investor of his rights as a shareholder.

Investment trust shares are the ideal introduction to the stock market for private investors. They give a low risk opportunity to new investors with limited means who cannot afford to set up a portfolio of shares. Through a single investment trust shareholding, new investors can spread their risk across many companies, while retaining all the normal rights of a shareholder to receive annual reports and vote at general meetings. As an ultimate sanction, they can sell their shares if they disagree with the company's investment policy.

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tion offering a quick "double your money" fix.

We know from our research that new shareholders buy investment trusts because they want a long-term investment which will perform well at low cost. They obviously understand the nature of investment trusts better than Messrs Gaved and Goodman. Yours faithfully, PAUL MANDUCA, (Chairman), ATTC, Park House (6th Floor), 16 Finsbury Circus, EC2.

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23 May 1969	£1,000	£1,000	£40	£40
1969	1,028	1,136	280	304
1970	1,080	1,176	760	776
1971	1,134	1,920	1,240	1,924
1972	1,190	2,664	1,720	3,187
1973	1,268	2,272	2,200	3,118
1974	1,366	1,512	2,680	2,434
1975	1,466	2,640	3,160	4,825
1976	1,571	2,720	3,640	5,430
1977	1,682	3,960	4,120	12,536
1978	1,793	7,424	4,600	16,128
1979	1,947	8,920	5,080	19,831
1980	2,154	10,256	5,560	23,260
1981	2,356	12,000	6,040	27,690
1982	2,568	11,424	6,520	26,796
1983	2,759	16,272	7,000	38,694
1984	2,976	21,472	7,480	51,572
1985	3,240	27,080	7,960	65,543
1986	3,496	40,152	8,440	97,702
1987	3,768	50,136	8,920	122,427
1988	4,037	59,232	9,400	145,130
1989	4,418	72,616	9,880	178,404
1990	4,895	58,880	10,360	145,066
1991	5,308	62,400	10,840	154,167
30 June 1992	5,495*	69,600	11,080	172,188

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G Recovery figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics).

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Midland	Chemicals	1.00
2	Woolley	Industrial	1.00
3	Harold Simon	Electrical	1.00
4	Br Land	Property	1.00
5	Real Time	Electrical	1.00
6	Watts Blake	Building/Rtd	1.00
7	Bulmer (H T)	Breweries	1.00
8	Bodys	Industrial	1.00
9	Leeds	Textiles	1.00
10	Thibet & Brin	Transport	1.00
11	Jerome (S)	Textiles	1.00
12	Wilson (C)	Building/Rtd	1.00
13	Electronics	Electrical	1.00
14	IT	Industrial	1.00
15	Phon	Electrical	1.00
16	Cadbury-Schw	Food	1.00
17	Mind	Electrical	1.00
18	Thames	Building/Rtd	1.00
19	WPP	Paper/Print	1.00
20	Wolverhampton D	Breweries	1.00
21	Sylo	Chemicals	1.00
22	Gleason (M)	Building/Rtd	1.00
23	Brown Shipley	Chemicals	1.00
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37	Sure Darty	Industrial	1.00
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40	Striding Co	Textiles	1.00
41	Radford	Building/Rtd	1.00
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43	Waddington U	Paper/Print	1.00
44	De La Rue	Industrial	1.00

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Please make a note of your daily points for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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Shares sustain small falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on July 27. Dealings end August 7. Contango day August 10. Settlement day August 17. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN BARCELONA

IN-BRIEF

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN TERRASSA

Women g

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN BARCELONA

Brave words, but his victories this summer in the

Brave words, but his victories this summer in the

guinea pig:

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL IN BANYOLES

**Team for a place in the final.
The women's eight missed**

All times are BST

2030: Athletics: heptathlon (800m, FINAL event) Football: quarter-final, Jamaica's and women's extra-lightweight, semi-finals and FINAL Volleyball: women's preliminary round.

2130: Basketball: men's preliminary round.

Television: 08.00-12.30 (BBC1), 12.30-19.15 (BBC2) 19.15-20.10 (BBC1), 20.10-21.05 (BBC2) 22.15-00.00 (BBC1) 24-hour coverage of the event.



ANDREW LONGMORE

thused Boris Becker in the early days, seems to have worn off rather quickly. He has checked out of the

has checked out of Olympic village; complains



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with cat.

FRENCH. DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD.

FRENCH, DRY AND MISUNDERSTOOD

England's twin spin option opens way for Russell



Hick extra option

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE search for a combination to resolve this tempestuous series against Pakistan in England's favour will have implications way beyond the final Test match, starting on Thursday. Long-term futures are involved and big-name players are at risk.

Within the English game, they come no bigger than Ian Botham and Graeme Hick, and if neither appears in the party to be announced tomorrow morning, one Test career can safely be consigned to history and another to the pending fray.

Jack Russell, England's established wicketkeeper for five years, has a special place in

the affections of the cricketing public, of which Graham Gooch was volubly reminded by the Cheltenham crowd on Wednesday. But his place in the side is not inviolate and the debate surrounding him involves a principle more than an individual.

As this is the last Test of the summer, and it follows that those who play have more chance of making the winter tour than those who do not. Ramprakash and Lamb, among the batsmen, and Pringle, Malcolm and Salisbury, among the bowlers, will be waiting more anxiously than usual.

Touring considerations, however, will play little part in selectors' judgments. Their criteria must begin and end

with suitability for a game likely to bear no resemblance to the four-day thriller at Headingley. The Oval pitch is made to last and the four-man attack, which was shrewdly tailored to the low, slow conditions in Leeds, must be thanked for specialist service and summarily broken up.

Two of its components should survive, Lewis for his all-round potential and Maltman because his eight wickets in Leeds, and his ability to bowl straight, make him a better bet than Muntton or Pringle for the essential stock bowling role.

The priority will then be to restore some variety to the bowling. The selectors must decide not only on the identity of the bowlers but the

number, for while a four-man attack was reasonable for a game in which day five was never more than bad-weather insurance, the Oval surely demands a full complement.

There is, however, more than one way of obtaining a fifth bowler and Gooch may disdain the whole in favour of two halves, himself and Hick. This would permit the return of a specialist wicketkeeper, unless Gooch prefers to repeat the perceived safeguard of a seventh batsman.

The alternative ways to achieve a full attack are to persist with Stewart as wicketkeeper, to recall Botham or to give Lewis's batting talent its head and promote him to No. 6. The last option would be my

preference. Lewis has the technique to bat in the pivotal position and might just be inspired by the responsibility.

With Millns having dropped out of contention even more suddenly than he came into it, the fast bowling place will probably revert to Malcolm, despite the fact that his recent form does little to merit it. Perhaps of more concern, however, is the fitness of DeFreitas, whose groin condition is now into its eighth month.

To play DeFreitas would be a gamble but he has responded so well to Test cricket that he deserves another chance in conditions which suit him. If England are to follow this course, however, a full-time wicket-

keeper is a must, with Stewart allowed to refocus on the top-order batting, where his value lies and his influence, on his home ground, is needed.

Stewart should bat at three, now that Atherton has reclaimed his opening position, and the one place at stake will be contested by Hick, Ramprakash and Lamb. In the cauldron which will prevail, the temperament and resolution of Lamb would be valuable but Hick's catching, and occasional bowling, is likely to extend one of the longest waits for vindication a selection has received.

My 13 would be Gooch, Atherton, Stewart, Smith, Gower, Lamb, Lewis, Russell, Maltman, DeFreitas, Malcolm, Tufnell, Salisbury.

Impressive Lathwell attack sets example

Carefree Tavaré is denied century by revived Salisbury

By ALAN LEE

TAUNTON (first day of three: Sussex won the toss): Sussex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 338 runs behind Somerset

THIS has been a fraught fortnight for Sussex and early events yesterday demonstrated how justice can desert a struggling side. Insertions have no history of success at Taunton but this one might have been richly vindicated during a luckless opening spell by Franklyn Stephenson.

Somerset's subsequent advance to maximum points inside 85 overs put the greenness of the pitch and the rest of the seam bowling in perspective — and Alan Wells must have been regretting his decision even before his opposite number, Chris Tavaré, began to bat with an unaccustomed freedom to rival the pre-noon dash of Mark Lathwell.

The day, however, had a twist in its tail. Tavaré was one short of his first century of a bleak season when Ian Salisbury, the other class act in the Sussex attack, included him in a withering spell of five wickets for eight. Three were slip catches by Wells, two of them quite brilliant, and, partly thanks to Tavaré's insistence on batting out the innings, Sussex skipped off in a mood not usually associated with a side which has spent much of a day leather-chasing.

Two weeks ago today, Sussex were preening themselves on a massive first-innings score against the championship leaders, Essex. Somehow, they managed to lose, then failed to finish off a decimated Lancashire. Their Sunday League challenge has died and when a winning chance eluded them at Cheltenham on Monday, Norman Gifford,

the coach, gripped his pipe between clenched teeth and locked the dressing-room door.

They arrived here with his words still ringing in their ears but discovered they were not alone in their troubles. Somerset disciplined Neil Burns, the wicketkeeper, by leaving him out. His batting approach, according to Bob Cotnam, the director of cricket, "has left a little to be desired". As Burns heads the club's averages but has been not out 11 times, confusions on this euphemism are not difficult to draw.

Lathwell was back, however, and his duel with Stephenson, also returning after a three-match absence with knee trouble, was worth the admission money. Lathwell's technique is natural to the point of innocence, thankfully untouched by interfering coaches, but the defensive shortcomings which he has to correct were exposed by the proddings of the looting Barbadian.

In attack, however, Lathwell is breathtaking. Show me a better stroke than the one with which he punched Stephenson to the mid-on boundary and I will show you a Test player. He made 55 out of 74 before falling to a gloved pull. In 21 innings this year, this was his ninth score of more than 50; symptomatically, he has also been out nine times between nought and four.

The day died a little when he left, five runs coming from seven overs. Salisbury's first spell was promising and Wells was surely premature in taking him off, but Pigott split the stoic Hayhurst-Harden pairing and Stephenson returned for two consolatory victims before Salisbury began to weave his way through the lower order.

Tavaré's 50 came from 67 balls and he needed only another 37 to reach 99. He will not be happy to have given it away driving at a wide angle but the merit of Wells's catching, with both right and left hands, was matched by the timely return of Salisbury's control. Both England and Sussex could rejoice with him last night.

□ Kent plan to use their own water supplies to prepare pitches for Canterbury week which begins on Tuesday because of the widespread water shortage in the south-east.



Three's a crowd: Harden, of Somerset, on his way to 52 at Taunton yesterday

Fairbrother sets woes behind him in fine style

By PETER BALL

HEADINGLEY (first day of three: Lancashire won the toss): Lancashire have scored 399 for eight wickets against Yorkshire

NEIL Fairbrother's first season as Lancashire captain has been deeply disappointing for both player and club. He put some of his frustrations behind him yesterday, responding to the sight of his favourite opponents with an undefeated 166, his first century of the season, to put his side in a strong position in the 232nd Roses match.

It was his fifth century against Yorkshire, one fewer

than the Lancashire record held by Clive Lloyd. It may prove a match-winning effort, although by his standards, it was not one of his most fluent, free-living centuries.

As befitted a player searching for his form in only his sixth championship match of the season, he took five overs to get off the mark, and he dwelt in the nineties much more cautiously than usual, taking 15 overs after tea to move from 84 to 103, finally achieving it with the most delicate of late cuts off Carrick.

Speak and Lloyd, whose fluency for a time outshone everybody, also made important contributions, but Fairbrother's was of inestima-

ble value for his side on a pitch expected to break up. Among the 18 fours and five leg-side sixes were some memorable shots, one four driven behind cover evoking sighs of appreciation.

Only Clive Lloyd's record is now in his sights. This season will be the last, at least for the time being, when the teams meet twice a season, making that record harder to catch in future.

But, although the change may affront traditionalists, Roses matches are not what they were. The days when Tyldesley and Paynter held off Macaulay, Bowes and Verity in front of packed, passionate crowds have long gone, and

yesterday's attendance of 3,500 on the first day was rated good locally. It would not have impressed Neville Cardus.

Nor, perhaps, would these two teams, who begin August with only three wins between them, a record to make even relatively modern players squirm with embarrassment. But even Cardus would have admired Fairbrother, who responds with all his great predecessors' aggression to the sight of the White Rose, even when flown upside down as it was on the pavilion yesterday morning.

As if in compensation for his unfortunate season, everything went right from the

moment he won the toss. The only doubts about his day concerned selection as Crawley and Fowler were both omitted.

The omission of Crawley provoked some anguish from Lancashire camp followers, that of Fowler less so. But for two as Jarvis bowled with fire and accuracy, the need for a seasons' opener looked far more convincing than for an inexperienced underdog, however promising.

Speak and Graham Lloyd began the recovery with a stand of 85 in 25 overs, before Jarvis, the former England bowler, returned to persuade Lloyd into a loose stroke.

□ Philip Weston, of Worcestershire, captains the England Under-19 squad to play three Test matches against Sri Lanka this summer.

Festival ends in thrilling style

By IVO TENNANT

CHARTERHOUSE (second day of two): Essex beat President's XI by five wickets

THE vogue in first-class cricket this season has been for finishes to be manufactured on the last day through declarations, some of them realistic, some of them not. If the climax to the English Schools Cricket Association (ESCA) Festival was anything to go by, the under-15s are clearly following suit. The match between an Essex XI and their President's XI went to the last ball.

Not a day has gone by this week when a photographer has not appeared specifically for a feature of some sort on Liam Botham. There has been much to write about, too. Yesterday, he returned five for 74 in Essex's first innings and, just when the President's XI were much in need of a wicket after tea, he came on and took one in his second over.

It was ever thus with Ian, his father. If and when Liam becomes a professional cricketer, he will find his every step more harshly spotlighted than has been the case previously with any son of a famous father. "That'll never be as good as my dad," Richard Hutton was bluntly told. Christopher Cowdrey used to be asked why he could not drive the ball through the covers like his father. "If I could," he said, "I would."

Because his father is larger than life, Liam can expect all that and more. It is no coincidence that the three boys playing in the festival whose fathers have played at the highest level have all been sent to schools in the independent sector. At Charterhouse the quality of pitches can be gauged by three declarations in this match: had they gone to state schools, they would have done well to find any pitch at all.

Organisations, such as Cricket 2000, that have pledged themselves to revitalise the game in state schools, have come and gone. David Moss, of Manchester Grammar School, one of the most prominent cricket masters in the country, feels that the future for the state sector lies with practice on technique at indoor schools. He is concerned, too, for coaching in independent schools.

Still, for anyone who might have imagined cricket would not be played at Mullion Comprehensive in southwest Cornwall, the batting of Roberts in this festival, has been a treat. While he and Morris were at the wicket in the last 20 overs victory for Essex, who had been sent 224 in 170 minutes, was not out of the question.

SCORES: President's XI 214-7 dec 04 (Wright 83 and 167-30; Wright 75 not out, M. Croft 58; Essex 158-4 dec 17 (Wright 52 not out, L. Botham 5-74) and 224-5 (D. Roberts 87).

YESTERDAY'S BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SCOREBOARDS

Yorkshire v Lancashire

HEADINGLEY (first day of three: Lancashire won the toss): Lancashire have scored 399 for eight wickets against Yorkshire

Lancashire: First Innings
M A Atherton c Keblett b Jarvis 14
S P Richard b Jarvis 16
N J Speak c White b Roberts 59
G D Lloyd b Jarvis 66
N H Fairbrother not out 166
M Watkinson c Morris b Carrick 18
R W K Hogg c Keblett b Carrick 37
P A J DeFreitas c Bates b Carrick 30
D J Austin c Keblett b Carrick 4
P J Martin not out 4
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 5) 19
Total (8 wickets) 399

Score after 100 overs: 337-7
A A Barnett to bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-23, 3-108, 4-182, 5-243, 6-324, 7-326, 8-394

YORKSHIRE: First Innings
M D Morgan, S A Keblett, D Bates, S R Tendulkar, R J Bailey, C White, P Carrick, P W Jarvis, P J Hogg, J C Batty and M A Robinson
Extras (lb 12, w 1, nb 5) 19
Total (8 wickets) 399

Somerset v Sussex

TAUNTON (first day of three: Sussex won the toss): Sussex, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 338 runs behind Somerset

Somerset: First Innings

A N Hayhurst lbw b Stephenson 86
M Lathwell c Moore b Gidkins 55
J J Harden c Speight b Pigott 52
C J Tavaré c Wells b Salisbury 99
G T J Townsend b Stephenson 1
G D Rose c Wells b Salisbury 26
R P Turner c Wells b Salisbury 0
R P Small c Hall b Salisbury 9
N A Maltman c Hall b Salisbury 9
A R Gidkins c Hall b Stephenson 0
H R J Trueman not out 12
Extras (lb 5, nb 5) 10
Total (95-2 overs) 398

Score after 100 overs: 323-1
*T A Lloyd, P A Smith, N M K Smith, T K J Piper, G C Small, T A Muntton and A A Donald to bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-285, 2-339

Sussex: First Innings

D M Smith lbw b Maltman 1
J W Hall not out 11
N J Lunnham not out 5
Extras (lb 1) 1
Total (1 wicket, 11 overs) 18

*A P Work, M P Speight, P D Stephenson, T P Moore, C G Barry, A C S Pigott, D R Salisbury and E S H Gidkins to bat
FALL OF WICKET: 1-7
Bonus points: Somerset 4, Sussex 4
Umpires: J D Bond and A A Jones

Warwickshire v Leicestershire

EDGBASTON (first day of three: Warwickshire won the toss): Warwickshire have scored 385 for two wickets against Leicestershire

Warwickshire: First Innings
A J Miles c Mullally 91
R G Twose not out 233
D P Ordler lbw b Parsons 29
I L Parry not out 23
Extras (lb 5, nb 4) 9
Total (2 wickets) 385

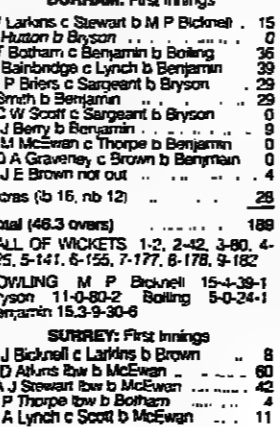
Score after 100 overs: 323-1
*T A Lloyd, P A Smith, N M K Smith, T K J Piper, G C Small, T A Muntton and A A Donald to bat
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-285, 2-339

Durham v Surrey

DURHAM: First Innings
W Larkins c Stewart b M P Bicknell 15
S Hazen b Bryson 95
I T Batham c Benjamin b Bolding 29
P Battersby c Lynch b Bryson 29
S Smith b Benjamin 29
C W Scott c Sargeant b Bryson 29
D L Harris c Hooper b Igglesden 29
D J Harris c Hooper b Igglesden 29
S M McManis c Thorpe b Benjamin 0
D A Graveney c Brown b Benjamin 0
S J E Brown not out 4
Extras (lb 16, nb 12) 28
Total (16-3 overs) 188

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-42, 3-40, 4-125, 5-141, 6-155, 7-177, 8-178, 9-182
BOWLING: M P Bicknell 15-4-38-1, Bryson 15-3-36-4, Bolding 5-0-24-1, Benjamin 15-3-30-8

SURREY: First Innings
D J Bicknell c Larkins b Brown 8
P D Akers lbw b McManis 6
A J Stewart lbw b McManis 2
G P Thorpe lbw b Batham 4
M A Lynch c Scott b McManis 11



Benjamin: six wickets

150

Briton quickly asserts his authority with best sprint time of season

Christie edges out Burrell for starters

FROM DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT
IN BARCELONA

LINFORD Christie and Leroy Burrell enter today's semi-finals of the Olympic 100 metres looking the most likely contenders for the title. Both progressed in impressive fashion from the opening two rounds in the Montjuïc stadium here yesterday.

But all the challengers are still there, notably Dennis Mitchell, of the United States, and Frankie Fredericks, of Namibia.

Ben Johnson, too, has made it into the last 16, running his second fastest time of the season in the second round last night to qualify from the same heat as Christie and Burrell.

It was an edgy start to the fourth heat in which these three appeared and they needed four attempts to get away. Jean Zigrion, of the Ivory Coast, false-started first, followed by Sanusi Turali, Christie's Thames Valley Harrier clubmate who was running for Sierra Leone.

Johnson was the third false-start offender but clearly disapproved of the long hold in the set position which, combined with the inevitable edginess among the least experienced athletes, had caused a great many false-starts through the day's proceedings.

When they were finally away, Christie and Burrell quickly asserted their authority and both could afford comfortably to ease down as they approached the line.

Christie, with 10.07, equalled his best time of the season; Burrell, with 10.08, improved his by one-hundredth.

Johnson, who was first across the line in Seoul four years ago but was disqualified after failing a drugs test, was fourth in 10.30 and did not look to have much to spare. However, reports from those close to him say that he is doing the minimum he needs in each round.

The opening heat was won by Mark Witherspoon in 10.19sec. Marcus Adam, Britain's only other representative in the absence of the departed Jason Livingston, sent home for failing a drugs test, was eliminated. He ran 10.35 for fifth place.

Fredericks was fifth in the memorable world championship last year but believes he has improved since then. He, too, looked to have something in hand as he won the second heat in 10.13sec.

Mitchell won the third heat in 10.22, a time he shared



Simon Barnes, page 14
Three-day event, page 26
Programme, page 26
Results, page 27

with Olapade Adeniken, of Nigeria, the only athlete to defeat Christie over 100 metres this year. But Mitchell, the US champion, was cruising.

The only British woman sprinter to be selected to come here, Stephanie Douglas, was eliminated in the second round.

As in the men's race, all the main contenders came through the first two rounds for today's semi-finals. Irina Privalova, of the Unified Team, was the fastest of the day, with 10.98sec, but her two main rivals, Gwen Torrence and Merlene Ottey, looked comfortable.

Paul Edwards, Britain's only shot putter, did not get past the qualifying round. He was eliminated by lunchtime on the first morning of the track and field programme, failing to reach the 20 metres target he had set for himself.

He was more than a metre below his best for the season, his 19.03 metres being the best of his three qualifying attempts.

Kalman Konya, one of Germany's three representatives, was withdrawn from the competition by his country's national Olympic committee. The German athletic federation (DLV) had banned Konya for failing to be available for a random drugs test but, after the decision was overturned by a German legal commission, he took it upon himself to travel here.

However, his national Olympic committee stood firm that he should not be allowed to compete.

Two of Britain's three 800 metres representatives, Dianne Edwards and Lorraine Baker, qualified for the semi-finals today. Neither progressed automatically, by finishing in the first two of their heats, but both were among the six fastest losers.

Edwards, the Commonwealth champion, found herself with a difficult draw, against the defending Olympic champion, Sigrid Graub, from Germany, and the world champion, Liya Nuritdinova, of the Unified Team. However,

IAN STEWART



Opening shot: Christie launches into action at Barcelona yesterday as the sprint heats started

er, by following them round, she recorded 2min 00.39sec to remain in the competition. Baker, too, was fortunate to be in a fast heat, and, though fourth, her 2:00.50 took her through. Paula Fryer was the first Briton from any event to be eliminated, finishing fifth in her heat in 2:02.72. "I have no idea what happened. I was so confident that I was in two-minute shape."

Dick wants anti-drugs message spread

FROM DAVID POWELL

FRANK Dick, Britain's director of coaching, urged yesterday that the anti-drugs message should be conveyed more strongly to young athletes by the sport's coaches in an attempt to ensure that they do not fall into temptation.

In the wake of Jason Livingston being sent home from here after failing a drugs test, Dick said: "The increased commercial return for achievement at the highest level can make it very tempting. The tidal wave of commercialism

crashing through our sport is so great that I can understand people trying to cut corners, but I cannot condone it.

"Our coaches must begin to play a far wider developmental role to make sure our kids understand fair play. We have to say to the coaches: 'when was the last time you spoke to your youngsters about this? We have to ensure a culture where we are not only developing children for sport but through it.'

Livingston, Britain's No. 2 100 metres runner who is protesting his innocence, is

aged 21, as is Neal Brunning, the British shot putter who failed a test during the indoor season and was banned for four years. One of the main concerns of the British Athletic Federation (BAF) is that drugs are being supplied by people outside of the sport.

Professor Peter Radford, the chairman of the BAF's drug advisory group, said yesterday: "We talked to Brunning about the subject but we did not think that the information we received was reliable."

Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said: "The infor-

mation we have obtained after the Brunning case indicated to us that the athlete was obtaining drugs from a source outside the sport."

Dick reaffirmed his belief that drug-taking was on the wane but that it was necessary to introduce blood testing. "Nothing that has happened in the past couple of days has changed my opinion," Dick said. He said morale in the team had not been adversely affected and dismissed the notion that the 4 x 100 metres relay team's medal chances had lessened.

Row divides the unified weightlifting team

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A FURIOUS row broke out in the Unified Team weightlifting squad yesterday when Vasily Alexeyev, the trainer, pulled the gold medal favourite, Altynmurat Orazdurdyev, out of the competition 15 minutes before he was due to compete in the light-heavyweight class.

Orazdurdyev said Alexeyev's reason was that he would "get in the way" of rival

Unified Team lifter, Ibragim Samadov. Orazdurdyev's trainer, Bruno Abramyan, blamed the "former Soviet ruler" in the team for engineering the withdrawal.

Orazdurdyev, the only UT athlete in Barcelona from the former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan, said he had pleaded with Alexeyev and even promised to lose deliberately to Samadov, a Russian from the Chechen region of the Caucasus.

"I said I'd lose, that second place was good enough for me. He said it was too late," Orazdurdyev said. "I trained a year for this. I've been unlucky." Angry Abramyan called Alexeyev a bandit. Alexeyev, a Russian, was Olympic super-heavyweight champion in 1972 and 1976.

It was the first major row of the Games to break out within the Unified Team, a sporting marriage of convenience be-

tween 12 fractious former Soviet republics.

In the event Samadov came third behind Pyros Dimos, of Greece, and Krzysztof Siemion, of Poland — all lifted 370kg but Samadov was the heaviest by a few grams.

But he rejected his bronze medal and stormed off the rostrum without waiting for the Greek national anthem to be played. He was jeered. "He has rejected the bronze medal," said an Olympic official.

Two world records steal spotlight from Hungarians

FROM CRAIG LORD IN BARCELONA

BLISTERING world records by Wenyi Yang, of China, in the women's 50 metres freestyle and Kieren Perkins, of Australia, in the 1,500 metres freestyle, stole the thunder of Hungary's medal-winning machine in the final session at the Bernat Picornell pool.

Yang, of Shanghai, came out of the start of the 50 metres freestyle first and was never in serious danger, winning in 24.79sec. Her teammate, Yong Zhuang, was second, with Angel Martino third. Questions about drug-taking were angrily rebuffed by the Chinese and cautiously avoided by Martino, née Myers, who was banned for two years in 1988 after testing positive for steroids.

More impressive than Yang was Perkins, who broke his own world mark by 4.92sec in 14min 43.48sec. He lapped each of the 15 100 metres in less than 59 seconds, the time it took Johnny Weissmuller, who became Tarzan, to win the 100 metres title in 1924.

Glen Housman, also of Australia, was second in 14mins 55.29sec. Jörg Hoffmann, the German who had beaten Perkins to win the world title in Australia 19 months ago, third in 15min 2.29sec. Housman spent much of the race ten metres back on his teammate after Perkins swam the first 100 metres under world record pace and kept that form throughout.

As the medals were presented, a sea of Union Jacks floated above the crowd, but they were part of the Australian flag. Ian Wilson, of Britain, finished fifth in 15min 13.35sec, ten seconds down on his national record. He had finished fourth at the world championships ahead of Housman, but behind Stefan Pfister, the German who finished in fourth place last night.

Tamas Darnyi was a hero at home. Last night, he became the first man to retain the 200 metres medley title, in 2min 0.76sec, the first Hungarian

to win four gold medals (two of which were from Seoul four years ago) and remain unbeaten in all medley races since 1985.

Hungary's joy increased further when Kitzina Egerszegi set an Olympic record of 2min 7.06sec to win the 200 metres backstroke. She had won the title at Seoul when aged only 14 to become the youngest ever Olympic swimming champion.

However, the joy was greatest for the baby of Team Szechy, Attila Czene, aged 18, who is tipped by Tamas Szechy, the Hungarians' coach in Budapest, to be the great man's successor. Czene finished third in 2min 1sec, just 0.03sec behind Greg Burgess, of the United States.

The sadness Burgess felt was not for missing the top honour, but for his teammate Ron Karnaugh, who finished sixth. His father had died in the stands on opening ceremony night and Karnaugh had been moved out of the village into a hotel. He swam bravely to turn third at 150 metres, but then faded badly in the closing strokes of the race.

Cheered on by a large Hungarian support group, one of which had cycled from Budapest to watch his hero, Darnyi and his training partners foxed the field with a tactical race. Czene led from start to 150 metres and Darnyi looked in danger, but the best all-round swimmer in the world changed gear out of the last turn and passed his rivals in the last five metres.

It has been spring all week for one American, who had won silver and bronze, but Summer Sanders arrived last night with a deserving victory and her first Olympic title in the 200 metres butterfly.

The banner high in the stands read "American ends in I Can". She did, just as she had at the world championships last year. Then, as in Barcelona, she had to wait until the last day to claim her gold medal.

Irish boxer is banned for one year

PAUL Griffin, the Irish featherweight, was banned from boxing for one year yesterday for trying to assault officials at the Olympic tournament.

The International Amateur Boxing Association said that Griffin was banned from competing at home and abroad and would have to serve a further two years probation. According to Karl-Heinz Wehr, the AIBA general secretary, the Irish Amateur Boxing Federation had the right to appeal within 90 days. "There is a need to take strict action," Wehr said.

Griffin, the European champion, kicked his gunshield out of the ring on Wednesday and remonstrated with ringside judges after a doctor decided his contest should be stopped. He had apologised on Thursday and Wehr suggested then that his case would be treated sympathetically. Felix Jones, head of the Irish federation, said a decision on whether to appeal would be taken on Griffin's return to Dublin after the Games.

Onus now lies on China to dispel suspicions

DAVID MILLER IN BARCELONA

The disappointment of the three-day event team after the show jumping at the polo club here on Wednesday was nothing compared with that of Britain sending home three competitors for alleged drug tests in pre-Games random testing.

Random testing of those preparing for the Games several weeks beforehand is fundamental to the success of testing. When China, which has surprised everyone by its surge into third place in the medals table, can demonstrate similarly the effective establishment of random testing by its own National Olympic Committee, only then will China be able to dispel suspicions about its rapid upsurge in standard in swimming and

several other sports, following the employment of coaches from the former Soviet Union and East Germany.

It is up to China to prove its innocence by out-of-competition domestic testing given the exposure of official drug programmes that existed in East Germany.

It is also important, in the eyes of other international federations, that gymnastics and diving quickly introduce higher age limits to avoid artificial postponement of puberty in girls to exploit youthful muscular dexterity. Some of the exercises performed in the past week in the "women's" events of these sports, which in particular make the Olga Korbut of 20 years ago look a novice, are so phenomenal as to be almost abnormal.

The revolution in football caused by a simple law change — banning the goalkeeper from playing the ball by hand when receiving a back-pass from outside the penalty area — has been emphatically established in the first 24 matches.

Quite apart from the benefit immediately given to attacking teams, the ball has been in play for an average additional 16 minutes per match: 70 minutes' play per match compared with 54 minutes' average in the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

So far, the goalscoring rate has not increased, but I believe this will follow in the later stages of the tournament.

Fifa, the world's governing body, is delighted with its success.

Sir Arthur Gold, the chairman of the British Olympic Association (BOA) made it known recently that he would not run again as a candidate for a further four years in office when the election takes place this autumn.

Sir Arthur, who is 75, succeeded Charles Palmer in a contested election four years ago and though at that time he had said he would only serve one term, there was talk that he might like to continue. However, although he has recovered from recent ill-health, he has decided the

time is right to hand over to a younger man.

This could be important in the projection over the next 12 months of Manchester's bid for hosting the Olympic Games of 2000.

It is thought that the most likely candidate as successor is Craig Reddie, from badminton, who has established a wide network of international contacts during negotiations for badminton's inclusion in the games and this can only be advantageous in furthering Manchester's cause.

There has been a feeling that during Manchester's campaigning over the past five years that the BOA has at times been less enthusiastic, internationally, in their support of the bid than they might have been.



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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1992

Grasping the sheets, learning the ropes

records
night
arians

It's definitely a force five now," said our instructor, Gavin Hall, squinting into the wind gusting from the southwest across the River Hamble, in Hampshire. Our dinghy was heeled over, sails close-hauled, bow digging deep into the waves. Salt spray streamed over me as I leant out from the boat, with all my weight on the sheet (rope) which kept the jib sail taut. Looking back, I saw the spray cascading over my nine-year-old son, John, who was handling the tiller and the mainsail sheet. Despite the force of the wind and the strength of the tide, he was keeping the boat on a straight course. John's face was set in a mad-dog grin of joy, strain and concentration. Another plume of spray slapped his head, and he laughed and said: "Now this is what I call sailing."

"Do you like it?" asked Nicola Barrett, our co-pupil in the boat.

"I love it," he said.

This was the last, perfect sail on the last afternoon of our five-day course of instruction with Victoria Sea School at Warsash, near Southampton. With the wind at 90° to the boat, we were sailing about 300 yards backwards and forwards across the river, going about (turning around) at either end.

As we reached the end of each run, John called: "Ready to go about?" When we said "Ready", he cried, "Lee ho!", to warn us he was moving to the lee side of the boat, away from the wind. Changing hands on the tiller and the mainsail sheet, he stepped across the bucking boat, ducked the swinging boom, steadied the tiller, hauled in the main sheet and set our new course, back towards the point from which we had sailed. I watched this confident performance with some astonishment. Only five days ago, he and I had sat apprehensively in a dinghy for the first time in both our lives. On that Monday, we could not have told the difference between a horse and a hayward, a gooseneck and a gudgeon. Now we could furl and set sails, tack and gybe, beat to windward and run downwind. We knew our port from our starboard and our shackles from our rowlocks. We could tie bowlines and figures of eight. We knew how to recover from a capsize and how to get a fix on the prevailing wind.

We had not become expert sailors; but we had certificates for dinghy sailing from the Royal Yachting Association. We were still beginners; but we had made a start.

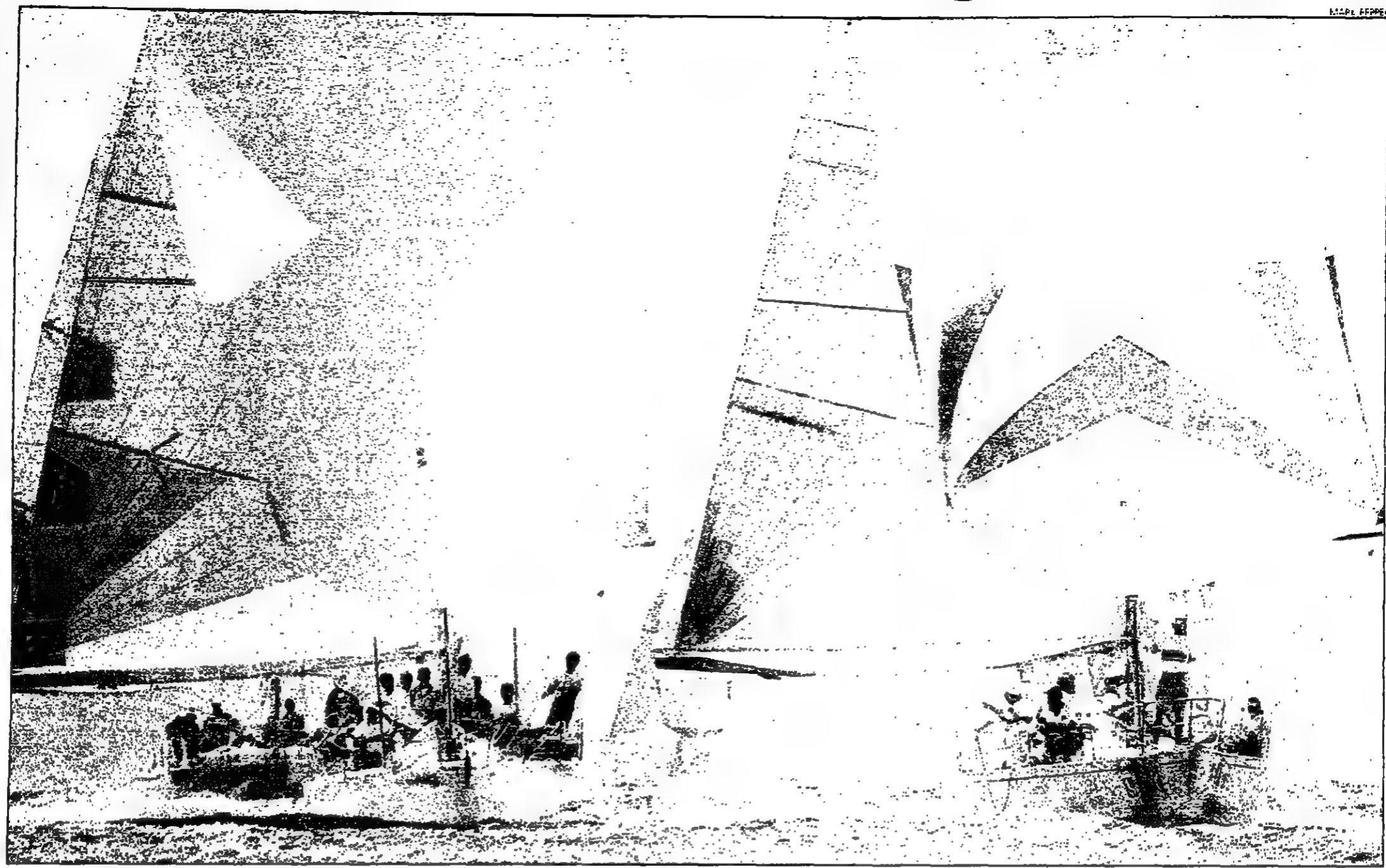
The week had begun gloomily. On Monday morning, I opened the curtains in our room at the Forte Posthouse, Fareham, to see passing cars on the A27 with their headlights on. Rain streamed down the window and the saplings around the new hotel loomed in a bludgeoning wind. "This," I thought, "is not going to be fun."

John was apprehensive. "I'm never any good at new things," he moaned. Having just begun his school holiday, he did not relish more formal instruction. He would have preferred to spend the day in the hotel's swimming-pool or in the restaurant, feasting on spare ribs and chocolate cake. We agreed that, if he truly hated the experience, we would abandon the course and go home, so that he could watch the video of *Look Who's Talking Too* for the 83rd time.

As it worked out, the weather had done us a favour. Tom Gregory, proprietor of the Victoria Sea School, greeted us in his office with a long face, saying that the wind was too strong to let us sail that morning. Instead, we would have an introductory theory session with our instructors.

We joined our class. The room was furnished with old chairs and a blackboard. Apart from ourselves, the class for Level Two instruction consisted entirely of Nicola, a 19-year-old student of law and French. We had feared a large organisation and a big group of learners. We found ourselves in something like a family group.

One of the instructors was Adam Gregory, Tom Gregory's son. The other was Gavin Hall, Adam, 24, and Gavin, 22, have been sailing all their lives and instructing for about a third of them. My son's schoolroom blues lifted at the sight of their faded, torn and scuffed clothes. He felt even better when



The standard to which some (though not all) dinghy sailors aspire: sheets, shackles and split-second judgment during the gruelling Admiral's Cup, the highlight of Cowes Week, which starts today

the lads got to work on the blackboard and he realised that his own grasp of spelling was as good as theirs.

The language they shared was not immediately recognisable as our own. They spoke of beam reaches and broad reaches, of clews and cleats and daggerboards; our blank eyes and furrowed brows showed that we didn't know what they were talking about. Gavin told us not to worry. "All these terms come naturally after you've been in the boat for a while," he said, "and sailing is not about being in a classroom; it's about being on the water." Then they tied a tiller to the back of a classroom chair and had us practise crossing the room as if we were going about (turning the boat). We did not understand what we were doing, but there seemed nothing to it.

We lumbered out to the water for the first time that afternoon — our oilskins and life jackets made us look like Danny De Vito's Penguin in *Batman Returns*. The wind was still wailing round the pontoons where the school's dinghies were moored and it was thick with cold rain. But our waterproof trousers, jackets and boots kept us completely dry and warm while we fiddled with the riggings of the Victoria 16 dinghy as Gavin sailed us out, for the first time, on the waters of the River Hamble.

Under sail, Gavin and Adam were transformed: all awkwardness and hesitancy disappeared. Moving around the boat, giving instructions, pointing out the direction of the wind and the movement of the tide, they were at ease in their element.

Neil Lyndon and his son, John, knew nothing about sailing, let alone clews, cleats and capsizing. But after a week's training they found their sea legs - now they are confident beginners

Their confidence enveloped us. Though we were clueless and cack-handed and hilariously clumsy, I was never fearful for our safety. We took turns with Nicola to attempt that going-about manoeuvre which had seemed so unreal when the tiller was tied to the classroom chair. Our boots snagged on straps, we dropped the tiller, lost control of the sheets and the sails and fell in the bottom of the boat, which lunged over the waves and turned through the wind to point in the direction opposite to the course we were supposed to take. Our instructors were calm. They gathered the sheets, steadied the tiller, reminded us to change hands before we began to move our feet across the boat, and told us to do it again. Within two hours, each of us could complete the move without losing control of the boat or its course.



On waves of learning: John and Neil Lyndon, Nicola Barrett and their instructor, Gavin Hall

John and I felt good that night. We reckoned we deserved our swim in the hotel's pool and our dinner, and we slept long and deep, warmed by the satisfaction of having learnt something new.

Each day at Warsash was like the first. The weather was rough in the morning. Gavin and Adam would introduce us to some baffling theory in the classroom and, later, bring it alive on the water. Our sailing before lunch was usually discouraging. Theory seemed inapplicable to practice; we couldn't absorb the new theories we had been taught, nor keep in our heads the techniques we had already mastered. On Wednesday morning, John was over-confident in attempting another tack; he kept his head up and was clouted hard

by the swinging boom. He cried for a minute, gave up the tiller and buried his head in his life jacket. Our lunch in a Warsash café was tense. "I want to stop sailing now," he said. I persuaded him to see how the afternoon went.

It went brilliantly, as they all did. The sun shone. A fair breeze blew across the water from the Fawley refineries. All of Gavin's encouragements came together and the boat sped across the water under our control. Trippers on river boats waved from their decks. "I'll bet they're thinking, 'That looks great: I wish I was doing that,'" Gavin said. It felt great. That same evening, cracked skull forgotten, John was telling his grandmother how much he was enjoying sailing. "Tomorrow," he said, "we're doing our capsizing."

She gasped.

"Don't worry," he said. "We know what we're doing."

He had no idea. Gavin rocked the dinghy, its mast dipped below the surface, depositing Nicola, John and me in the water. The kid was frightened. The cold water shocked him. He panicked, thinking he was drifting away from me. Though the life-jackets kept our heads out of the water, their bulk and the weight of our oilskins and boots made swimming hard. My job was to swim round the boat with the mainsheet, clamber on to the centreboard and right the boat, while Nicola and John positioned themselves within it on the other side. Gavin was on the hull, yelling instructions. Though the centreboard was only six out of the water, I battled like a broken beetle to lift myself on to it. My right arm had been weakened

by tennis elbow and was not strong enough to raise me. If Gavin had not hauled me up, I don't know how I would have done it.

When the boat was righted, I was supposed to climb into it over the side. I felt as if I was clad in an iron diver's suit. The powerful Nicola leant over and yanked me in, as if she was landing a mackerel. I lay in the bottom of the boat, panting and smeared with river mud. Gavin asked John if he wanted to take a turn at righting the boat. He declined, declaring, again, that his sailing days were done.

After another lunch of fierce negotiation, as we walked back to the boat John was amazed to see that the tide had receded past the spot where we had capsized. We had gone down in about 5ft of water. John had been panicking when he was barely a millimetre out of his depth. He would not have been so frightened if he had known that he was not in danger. In the whole week, this was our instructors' only omission of vital information: their only (and negligible) failure of understanding.

By Thursday afternoon, we were sailing triangles around the points of three buoys in the training area outside the mouth of the Hamble. Close-hauled and tacking down one leg of the triangle, running before the wind with the sails out on the second leg, gybing and turning into a broad reach for the third leg, we all felt that we might be able to manage this business: it was possible. We were learning.

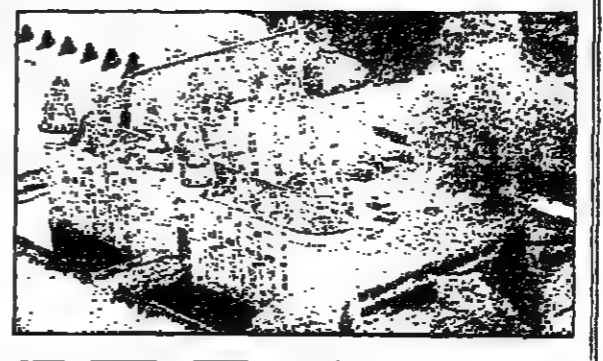
Gavin caught my eye and laughed. "There's more to it than you'd think, isn't there?" he said. "I'm looking forward to learning the rest of it," I said.

● Neil Lyndon was a guest of the Forte Posthouse, Fareham. He sailed with Victoria Sea School, Stone Pier Yard, Shore Road, Warsash, Southampton SO5 9ER (0489 889089). A five-day dinghy course costs from £140-£175, depending on the season. The Royal Yachting Association (RYA) publishes Dinghy Sailing and Keelboat Courses, a guide to schools in the UK which offer courses leading to certificates in the RYA's National Dinghy Certificate Scheme. Royal Yachting Association RYA House, Romsey Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire SO5 4YA (0703 629962).



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History's not bunk, it's Natural

— at Sotheby's sale of Natural History Books, Manuscripts, Prints & Drawings this Autumn.

The appeal of natural history books lies in the illustrations which are often striking and extremely beautiful. Audubon's monumental *The Birds of America*, containing 435 hand-coloured etched plates in double elephant folio format (over 3ft by 2ft), sold at Sotheby's for over £1½ million in 1990, while an edition of John Gould's *The Birds of Great Britain* achieved £33,000 this year, and Joseph Dalton Hooker's *The Rhododendrons of Sikkim-Himalaya* sold for £7,150.



A hand-coloured plate from a complete copy of John Gould's *The Birds of Great Britain*, sold in June for £33,000.

CLOSING DATE FOR THE SALE: 4TH SEPTEMBER

As these prices indicate, fine and rare natural history books are highly sought after by collectors. If you have any similar items and would like to include them in this sale, please telephone our experts Alan Gillin or David Park on 071 408 5293 as soon as possible.

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BOOKINGS

THE KISS OF THE SPIDERWOMAN: After a successful play and film version of Manuel Puig's novel about two prisoners in Latin America comes the musical. Chita Rivera plays the spiderwoman with Harold Pinter directing.

Shaftesbury Theatre, London WC2 (071 379 5399), previews Oct 10

ROMEO AND JULIET: Scottish Ballet revives John Cranko's *Romeo and Juliet* as the centrepiece of its autumn season. The company also present a new triple bill including the work of Jiri Kylian, *Overgrown Path*, Amanda Miller's *Brief*, and George

Balanchine's Who Cares?
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041-332 9000). Aug 18, 19, 22, 24-25
His Majesty's Theatre,
Aberdeen (0224 641122). Sept 1-
Lycaum Theatre, Sheffield
(0742 769922). Sept 8-12.
Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh
(031 557 2590). Sept 15-19. New
041 482 226655

VITA AND VIRGINIA: A hundred years after the birth of Virginia Woolf, *Sackville-West* comes a new play about her celebrated affair with Virginia Woolf. Actress Eileen Atkins has adapted correspondence between them and stars as herself alongside Benedict Wiltshire.

Minerva Studio Theatre,
Chichester (0243 781312), Sept 8
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Adam Hann-Byrd Likab

THE BAD SLEEP WELL: (Connoisseur, PG): Letterboxed print of Kurosawa's contemporary tale of graft and corruption. Powerful performances from Toshiro Mifune and Masayuki Mori as a government official and his

BARTON FINK (Columbia TriStar, 15): The Coen brothers' beautifully designed and macabre comedy about a New York playwright (John Turturro) all at sea in Forties Hollywood. With John Goodman. 1991.

THE INDIAN KUMIER (20:20)
Vision, 15: Sean Penn's directing debut: a straggling, gloom-filled drama about a disintegrating family. Fine performance from Viggo Mortensen as a Nebraska cop's hell-raising brother. 1991.

LITTLE MAN TATE (20:20)
Vision, PG: How and how not to

Film: Geoff Brown;
Thunder, Jeremy Kingston

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Classical Music: Ian
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TV PREVIEW

TV PREVIEW


Spanish maritime adventure is much on one's mind at the moment, what with Christopher Columbus and all that. So this ironic circularity, too. Ferdinand and Isabella sit impassive while Columbus sails out from Barcelona, mentally rubbing their hands at the prospect of fortunes. And 500 years later King Juan Carlos and his wife sit impassive throughout this Global Village opening ceremony, mentally wringing their hands at the fortune that has been spent. Exploration expands the world but contracts it simultaneously. Columbus lands at San Salvador, mistakenly thinking he is in India (hence) and 500 years later it doesn't

Proper comic performances suit television much better than the National Theatre of Brent's usual hilarious pretence of seat-of-the-pants mugging. Yet one couldn't help imagining Barlow and Broadbent all the same: "So what are



ROCK

From Mars band, especially in the muscular boogie of "Glamorous Glue" and the baroque coda of "I Know It's Gonna Happen Some day", which quotes from the finale of Bowie's "Rock 'n' Roll Suicide". Morrissey's lyrics are as playful and spiteful as ever. "My love is as sharp as a needle in your eye," he croons in "Seaside. Yet Still Docked" and there is the familiar, flatulent humour in titles such as "We Hate It When Our Friends Become Successful" and "You're the One for Me Fatty". But the



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DAVID SINCLAIR

L.T.

● Chris Bonington's new book, *The Climbers: The History of Mountaineering*, is to be published on August 6 by BBC Books/Hodder & Stoughton (£16.95) to coincide with a six-part BBC2 television series starting on August 13.

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SATURDAY REVIEW

Overseas Holidays

FRIDAY
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Business to Business: Business opportunities.

International Appointments:
Overseas Opportunities.
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with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

International Appointments:
Overseas Opportunities.
Motor: The complete car buyer's guide
with editorial.
Business to Business: Business opportunities.

ARTS
Northern
lights

ity of the pure white fleece and mentioned that "I must have it spun and knitted into a heavy winter sweater. The clippers were silent - I wouldn't if I was you. Smell, you see, when it gets wet. Smells something 'orrid, really rammy. That's how it smells."

So that's the solution. Buy a fleece from the store, stewed old mutton heart, find a knitter with a sailing nose and at the first sign of rain stroll into the field of ewes. With luck, the odour would catalyse the situation more potently than Chanel No 5. Needless to say, I would make a tactical withdrawal if things got out of hand.

Look, I know you would have said if I had known about this in time: the ewes all on heat like a field of electric fires, a sweater to keep me warm, and pomids saved on the vet's bill.

And for the first time in my life, all the girls will be looking at me.

lakes have been dredged, 2,500 plants have been set, and much of the bursarial softwood has been removed. Overgrown vistas have been reopened and the tennis courts and pump houses will be either moved or made less visible. Replicas of lost columns at the Temple of Concord are being installed, and Kent's Temple of Verus is

enter on this curious subject." Those birds were to become the most important birds in history; keys to the mystery of mysteries. But Darwin didn't even bother to record which island each species came from. Only later did he wonder:

Darwin became aflame with excitement when the Beagle reached coral islands: his speculation on their origin is based on the notion of gradual change through vast tracts of time. Gradualism is a cornerstone of the theory of natural selection. He also writes of a vast earthquake: "In seeing the most beautiful and laboured works of man in a moment

❑ **Warwickshire:** Three village gardens at Hunningham — The Bungalow (cottage garden with vegetables, The Old School House (borders, shrubs, pond), and Highcross (alpine). All with fine views. *Hunningham, off Leamington Spa/Rugby road. Tomorrow-Aug 6, £1, child free.*

❑ **Herefordshire:** Abbey Court Court garden has a pool, rockery, herb and wall-trained fruit. Collections of sedums and euphorbias. *About 1.1m SW of Hereford. Open daily (except Wed) until Oct 18, 11am-6pm. £1.50, child 50p.*

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ARTS BRIEF

Northern lights

ALL things Nordic will be celebrated in a £2 million festival of Scandinavian culture in London in November and December. "Tender is the Night" will look at the music, art, theatre, cinema and literature of all five Scandinavian countries in a programme at the Barbican Centre, while concerts will be held at several other London venues and Scandinavian design will be featured at the Design Museum.

The National Gallery weighs in with a Munch exhibition, while the West End has a new production of the "operamusic" *Which Witch*, at the Piccadilly Theatre. The festival begins on November 10 with a Barbican concert by the Oslo Philharmonic in the presence of The Queen.

Double top

TWO young dancers have been selected as joint winners of this year's Cosmopolitan/C&A Dance Award. Melanie Teall, 17, from Coteshill, and Simon Williams, 16, from Stockton-on-Tees, will both be given funding to continue their training for a further year. This year's award is worth a total of £29,000, which is used to fund dancers, the majority of whom are struggling financially to train.

Last chance...

GIVE him a trendy target, and out comes the verbal blowtorch. Jimmy Porter, 35 years older and gruffer than when he surfaced in *Look Back in Anger*, spends *Deidra* pulverising everything from the social services to "yoo". Australians to the Church of England. But even the unstoppable must eventually run out of breath: and, sadly, John Osborne's feisty, cluttered play closes tonight at the Comedy Theatre (071-867 1045).

Heritage: Rodney Milnes draws attention to an architectural horror story in the Derbyshire Peak District

Time to stop buck-passing in Buxton

VISITORS to this year's Buxton Festival have been greeted by one of the most depressing sights imaginable. The Crescent, John Carr of York's masterpiece of 1784 and one of the noblest examples of classical architecture in Britain — no, I am not forgetting Edinburgh, Bath or Heveningham Hall — is derelict, boarded-up and crumbling.

This is no surprise to Buxtonians. The last occupants moved out of the County Library in the Adam Assembly Rooms at the north end of The Crescent nearly a year ago; it is as though the heart of this glorious spa town suddenly stopped beating.

In a year of total inactivity a lot can happen. Lead, slates too, can disappear from the roof, which at the south end, the old St Ann's Hotel, is virtually open to the skies. Brave souls who have ventured inside report clumps of science-fiction-style dry rot, feet across. At the library end cracks proliferate in the Adam ceiling; without anyone noticing, the roof support structure had collapsed and the entire weight was bearing down on Adam's plasterwork. In months, weeks even, the whole edifice could tumble down irretrievably, and gentle enquiries suggest that nothing is being done.

In that wonderfully depressing English way — this could not, I think, happen in Scotland — it is of course no one's fault, no one's responsibility. For a start, it is not entirely certain who owns the building. The Derbyshire County Council owns the Adam end; as of early this week, it seems that the Bank of Egypt might own the hotel end as mortgagee in possession following a bankruptcy, but that may have changed by today. What is certain, however, is that £2 million is needed immediately to make the building safe, and a minimum of £5 million to restore it to some kind of civic use.

The Derbyshire County Council is notoriously poverty-stricken; as we recently heard, it couldn't afford to fund its police force properly, even by trying to sell off the art treasures in its keeping, though it could afford tens of thousands of pounds for road-signs declaring Derbyshire a nuclear-free zone.



Derelict, boarded-up and crumbling: the St Ann's Hotel end of The Crescent, Buxton, has been left virtually open to the skies

A festival, especially an opera festival, is regarded as "elitist". There has, though, been a change of leadership at the DCC, and things could change.

Meanwhile, the equally poverty-stricken but more amenable High Peak Authority looks on helplessly. One body that is making a noise is English Heritage, but here again, at whom should the noise be directed? In matters of listing — The Crescent is of course Grade I — it deals with the Department of the Environment; in other matters the new Department of National Heritage, which is still sorting itself out. English Heritage could see its way to chipping in an encouraging

£200,000 to someone, anyone, who might start to take responsibility for The Crescent, but everyone is still engaged in the ritual dance of "who, me?", not a mating dance, but a dance of death. This, the wilful neglect, no, destruction-by-default, of a pearl of our heritage is nothing less than a national scandal.

This is part of a much wider, though less immediate, failure of vision. When the Buxton Festival started in 1979 it galvanised the town. The grandiose Edwardian Palace Hotel, for instance, was restored and not — though it had recently been condemned — demolished.

Yet, despite showing what it could do artistically in its first two years, despite European critics voting Buxton the best European summer festival, despite its being an ideal festival venue set in spectacular countryside crammed with hotels and with two theatre spaces in addition to Matcham's jewel of an Opera House the Buxton Festival has never been adequately funded. Festivals are low priorities at the Arts Council and North West Arts.

So festival managements have had to scrape together programmes at a few months' notice, with inevitable volatility of artistic standards. Private money has kept the show just about on the road: dinner-

jackets and hampers have replaced affordable seat prices and the sort of street-party, morris-dancing, jazz, and invigorating popular appeal of the early years.

But Buxton is now at a turning point. The new management team of Bob Huddle (chairman) and Jane Glover (artistic director-elect) has raised the artistic temperature. A one-off grant of £100,000 from the Foundation for Sport and Arts has started them off. A token, first-ever *pauchoire* from the Arts Council could be a portent. And suddenly The Crescent comes into play.

Imagine concerts in the Adam Assembly Rooms. Imagine accom-

modation for artists, visitors, conferences even. In The Crescent. Imagine, as Glover does, open-air events in the natural amphitheatre in front of it.

Imagine other Buxton festivals — a popular chamber-music jamboree, say, along the lines of Kuchino in Finland. Imagine one of the national companies developing the sort of relationship with Buxton's three theatres that the Royal Shakespeare Company had with Newcastle. Imagine anyone having that sort of vision and the will to make it fact.

But first, someone has to wrest away responsibility for John Carr's Crescent, the very heartbeat of Buxton, from whoever may control it. Now, today, before it is too late.

Vivid portrayal of the search for love

DANCE

Strange Fish
Riverside Studios

YES, Lloyd Newson's *Strange Fish* does live up to the claims made for it. His DV8 Physical Theatre has pushed up the standards of British dance theatre just as Siobhan Davies's company has done for pure dance.

With this new production a British choreographer (Australian, actually, but based here for many years) at last provides a theatrical experience that can seriously be measured, for its physical and emotional daring, its complexity and intelligence, against Pina Bausch's work. And even by that standard it does not do badly.

This would be exciting to watch just as a show, even if you ignored its meaning. Figures appear and disappear by some mysterious sleight of hand through openings in the back wall of Peter J. Davison's set.

Other effects include pebbles showering down on the

Pushing up the standards: members of DV8 Physical Theatre in *Strange Fish*

stage in a great deluge and water splashing up between the boards. A man tries to fly; people vanish into an angry sea.

But it is the people in it who catch the imagination: not only the sad loners presented by Wendy Houston and Nigel Charnock, but the others too, especially Lauren Potter's shy, shy girl on the edge of things and Melanie Pappenheim intermittently observing

and also commenting in song. Diana Payne-Myers, a game old bird of 64, scuttles among them, lighting candles or serving drinks, sustaining a handstand longer than chunky, athletic Dale Tanner, and allowing herself to be thrown from one to another like a bundle of old clothes.

As just one example of Newson's multiple images, consider this. Houston slips out from under Tanner's embrace and sits miserably watching his bottom still jiggling automatically up and down; a vivid expression of uninvolved sex. But then, while she desperately seeks some satisfaction among the pebbles, she becomes also a bather trapped on the beach by the tide, and this metaphor in turn converts to a woman getting her own back on the crowds who jostle her.

Did I mention that, for all its desolate picture of people vainly seeking friendship or love, the production is also hilariously funny? And the humour is not evasion of the seriousness, but an enrichment of it, as in Charnock's sustained monologue of desperately cheerful patter. This production makes most of our new-wave choreography look like kid's stuff.

JOHN PERCIVAL

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Carol White
— a candle
in the wind

At first sight Carol's story seems a perfect fit. Hollywood itself could not have told it better: promising young actress is lured with extravagant promises, only to meet



disillusionment, followed by a sad, poignant death. But can this convenient narrative account for such excessive behaviour — the relentless drinking and drug-taking which propelled her along the path of self-destruction...?

The tragic story of *Carol White* — in *The Sunday Times Magazine* tomorrow

JOAN MIRO

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PROMS

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O BRAVE new world that has such people in it! Charles Ives, for one. John Philip Sousa, and even Dvorak, for he arrived in the United States just as celebrations for the last centenary of the great navigator were getting underway, and was hailed as a kind of second, cultural Columbus.

They were all there in Wednesday night's Prom, and quite a night it was. The central work was Ives's *Holidays Symphony*, four tone-poems celebrating four national days, and each one a marvel of the American mind and sensibility.

Each piece begins with a whispering, disorienting image of distant, shifting sounds, rather as if each forthcoming

tableau is to be glimpsed, or remembered, through layer upon layer of muslin curtains. For the wintery "Washington's Birthday" a flute, humming away to itself through swatches of string writing, is suddenly swept into an anarchic barn dance; in "Decoration Day" a distant bugle call is almost trod underfoot by the Second Regiment Connecticut National Guard March.

The "chemical compound", as Ives described his extraordi-

nary and precise combinations of tones and rhythms, certainly made for an explosive "Fourth Of July". The visual effect of each section of the orchestra resolutely doing its own thing, yet in perfectly calculated and expertly achieved ensemble, hilariously emphasised both the genius of Ives and the skills of Libor Pesek and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

More discreet, but no less admirable, was Pesek's way with Dvorak. This "New World" Symphony really did, for once, breathe new air. The slowest of tempi were sustained and marvellously regenerated by minute variations of pulse, an almost imperceptible inner rubato

which breathed new life into the work. The wind playing, too — solo by solo as the party first tune was introduced, and throughout in ensemble — was thoughtfully and affectionately characterised.

The evening ended with Sousa's *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, though, interestingly, not a single flag was unfurled. All the fun was in Leopold Stokowski's effervescent orchestration. As the "Here we go, here we go" trio purred out, it was first spangled with sleigh bells and glockenspiel then treated to a riotous counter-theme at the hands and lips of four shrill piccolos.

HILARY FINCH

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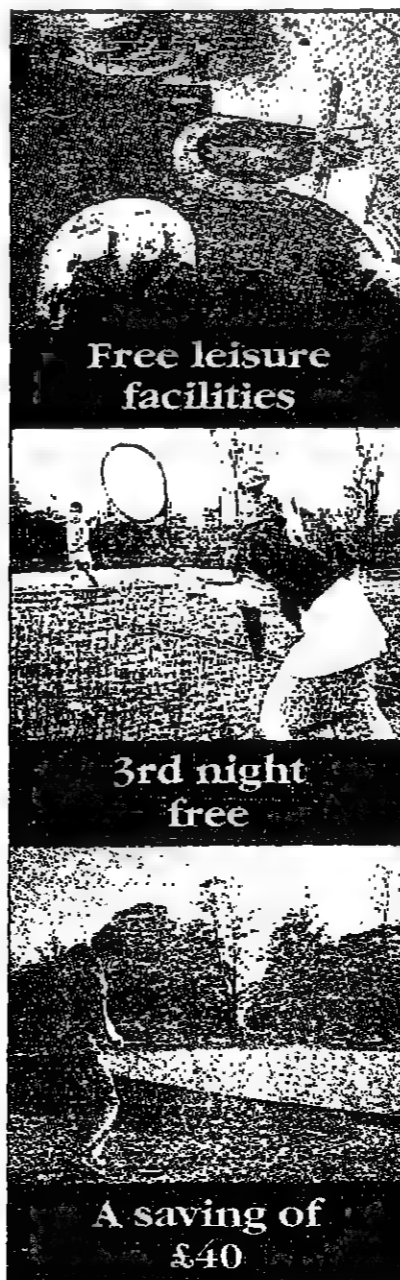
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DIANA LEADREYER

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, shares some favourite fish recipes of the season, from salmon to sardines



AS I write, my fishmonger, Andy, in Hampstead Community Market, north London, is selling young wild salmon, or grise, for £3.50 per lb for the whole fish and has stopped selling farmed salmon, which he would price at £2.50-£2.75 per lb.

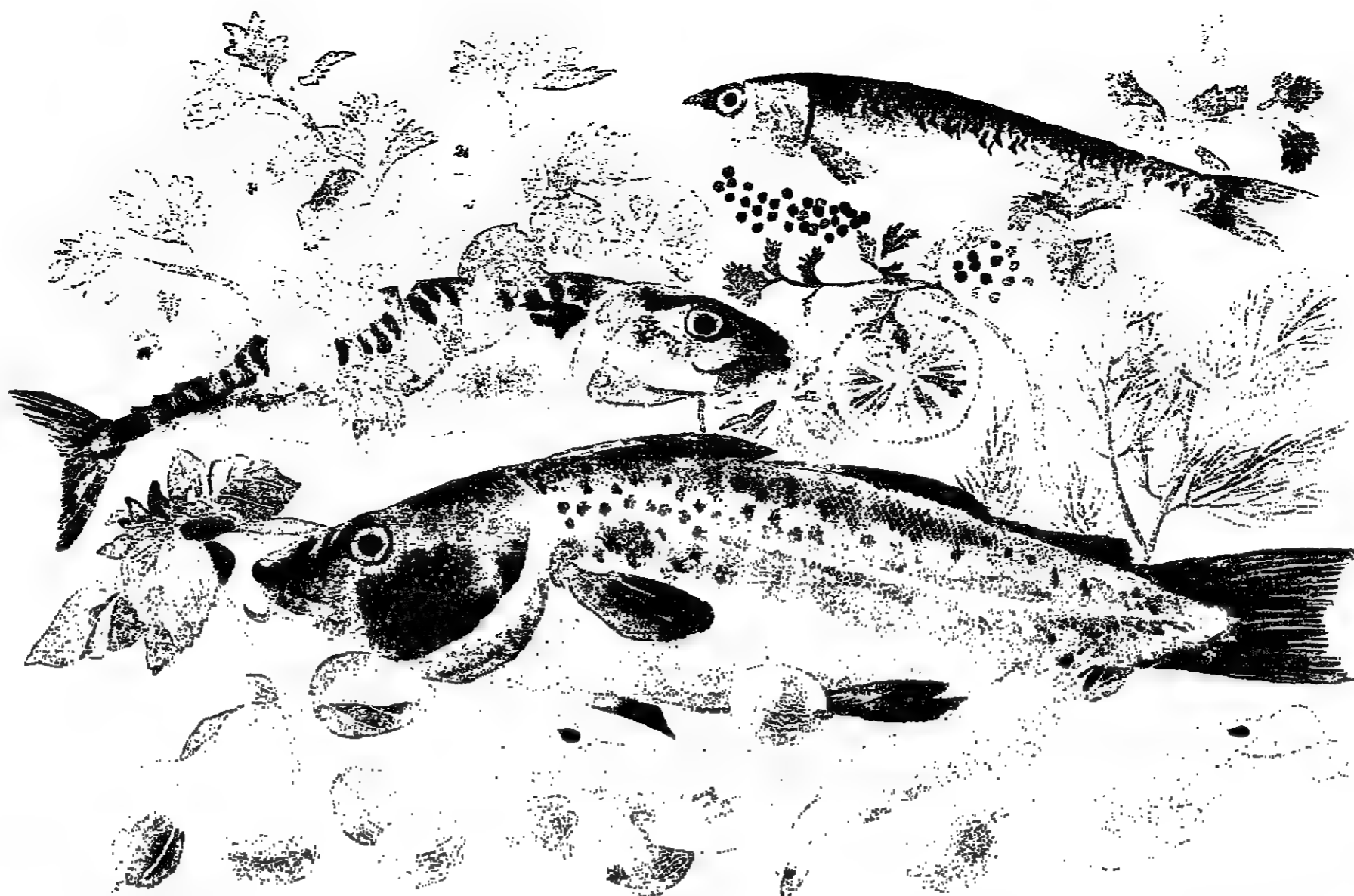
He would prefer not to sell salmon at all, except when wild salmon is in season, and concentrate on white fish, supplemented by shellfish and the oily fish. But, as he says, people come into the shop expecting to buy salmon all year round, and he feels obliged to stock farmed salmon. Recently, producers who tell him about the stridles being made in "free range" salmon have been to see him. I have tasted Glenarm salmon from northern Ireland, which is farmed in extensive conditions with no pre-emptive medication or chemical feeding, and its texture does indeed seem like that of a "well-exercised" fish.

Andy's comments on those who "tamper with nature" are fairly scathing: if we consumers did not demand salmon all year round, there would be no salmon farming; if we did not demand meat every day there would be no intensively reared pork and chicken.

Each time I go into his shop, Andy points out not just the expensive fish — sole, turbot, halibut and sea bass — but the mackerel and herrings, squid and lemon sole, and a range of the more unusual fish: John Dory and red mullet, if he can get it. His Japanese customers go for swordfish steaks and well-trimmed fillets of tuna. He will sell shellfish and smoked fish in season, and he cooks his own crabs and lobsters to make sure they are absolutely fresh.

A favourite Friday night supper at home during the summer is a large fresh crab, with which we drink Chablis Grand Cru les Clos 1990 from the Dauvissat Brothers. The crab takes about an hour to pick over and prepare but the end result is worth the effort. I serve it in two stages: the first is the soft brown meat, which is poured and eaten with hot toast, the second is the white meat from body and claws. Until recently I served this with a thick garlic mayonnaise, but since using Tony Marshall's crab and langoustine dish, full of subtle oriental flavours, at the Langham hotel in London, I have served crab meat with a pile of lettuce leaves, to wrap it in, and a bowl of oriental dressing for dipping.

When shopping, do not be tempted to buy fish being offered at far lower prices than you would expect: it may well have been around for some time. *Caveat emptor*. Get to know your fish-



monger, and be prepared to pay good prices for good fish. Here are some of the recipes I have been cooking recently:

Chilled prawn and cucumber buttermilk soup
(serves 4)
1 large cucumber
1 pt/570ml buttermilk
1/2 pt/280ml semi-skimmed milk
a little fresh dill, basil or coriander leaf
1/4 pt/430ml fresh, peeled prawns
freshly ground white pepper

Peel away most of the cucumber skin and discard. Halve the cucumber lengthways and remove the seeds. Roughly chop the cucumber and put in a blender with the liquid, herbs and 1/2 pt/270ml prawns. Blend until smooth. Season to taste with pepper and pour into chilled soup bowls. Stir in the remaining whole prawns.

Note: The semi-skimmed milk can be replaced by fish stock. If you peel the prawns yourself, the shells can be used. If you like the flavour, to make a small amount of stock.

Salmon tartare with cucumber sauce
(serves 4 as a starter)
1 lb/340g wild salmon, skinned
1 shallot (optional)
2 tbsps extra virgin olive oil
seasoning to taste
1 or 2 ripe tomatoes

1 cucumber
1 tsp grated horseradish
1 tbsps cream, thick yoghurt or buttermilk

Chop the salmon into small pieces (if you use a food processor, run it briefly or the salmon will become a paste). If using a shallot, peel and finely chop and mix with the salmon and a spoonful of olive oil. Season lightly. Cover and put to one side. Skin the tomatoes and halve. Scoop seeds and pulp into a sieve set over a bowl, and rub through the liquid. Cut the tomatoes into strips or dice for garnish. Peel and halve the cucumber, remove seeds, chop or slice and fry in the remaining oil for 5-6 minutes. Put in a blender, or processor, with the horseradish and cream until smooth. Mix the salmon with enough of the tomato liquid to add a touch of acidity, and spoon on to the plates or, shape it using ring moulds. Spoon sauce around and decorate with the tomato.

Cod with Basque flavours
(serves 4)
1 mild onion, peeled and chopped
2 tbsps extra virgin olive oil
1 large red pepper, seeded, grilled and skinned, or 1 jar peeled peppers
4 plum tomatoes, peeled and chopped
seasoning to taste
1-1 1/2 lb/455-680g cod steaks or fillet
2 slices of Bayonne or Parma ham

In a sauté pan, sweat the onions in oil until soft. Add pepper and tomato and cook until vegetables are tender. Season lightly. If using cod fillet, skin and cut into four even pieces. Place on top of the vegetable sauce, drizzle on a little more olive oil, if liked, cover, and cook for about 8-10 minutes on a low heat until the fish is cooked to your liking. Shred the ham and put in the pan for a couple of minutes before serving. Fish cooked this way is also extremely good cold.

Pan-fried wild salmon fillets with basil and mustard mayonnaise
(serves 4. Note: this recipe uses uncooked eggs)

The mayonnaise
1 free-range egg yolk at room temperature
1/4 pt/140ml of preferred oil for mayonnaise
lemon juice or balsamic vinegar
1 tsp mustard
1/2 tsp salt
1 piece of crystallised fruit in mustard syrup, available from Italian delicatessens

Make a mayonnaise with the egg yolk and oil, gradually seasoning with lemon or vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Chop crystallised fruit finely, shred the basil, and stir both into the mayonnaise. Cover: put in a cool place until ready to serve.

The fried salmon
4 x 5oz/140g pieces of wild salmon fillet, skinned
salt, pepper
olive oil or butter

Season the fish on both sides and cook gently in the oil or butter until done to your liking. This can be served hot but is, I think, better at room temperature, served on a plate with salad leaves and the mayonnaise handed separately.

Baked mackerel with fennel and gooseberry sauce
(serves 4)
4 mackerel, cleaned and guned, heads and backbone removed
extra virgin olive oil
salt, pepper
4 tbsps cider
1/2 lb/230g gooseberries
1 fennel bulb, chopped
2oz/60g butter, in small cubes

Oil an oven-proof dish and in it place the fish, brushed with olive oil, seasoned and sprinkled with cider. Bake in a preheated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for about 20 minutes. Make the sauce by cooking the gooseberries and fennel until soft in just enough water to prevent burning. When soft, sieve the puree into a saucepan. Drain into it any cooking juices from the fish, and reheat. Beat in butter until well mixed, and serve with the fish.

Sardines en papillote
(serves 4)
4 or 8 fresh sardines
juice and thinly peeled zest of a lime
sea salt
freshly ground black pepper
extra virgin olive oil
4 circles of greaseproof paper or baking parchment

Scale and rinse sardines and remove heads. Cut open down the belly, gut, rinse and open out. Snip the backbone at the tail end, and lift out, taking as many of the smaller bones out as possible. Brush with lime juice, season with salt and pepper, and sprinkle with olive oil. Place a piece of lime zest inside and close the fish again. Brush the sheets of paper with oil. Put one or two sardines on one half of each greaseproof circle. Fold over, and fold and twist the edges together to make a tight seal. Place on a baking sheet, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 10-12 minutes. Instead of paper, you can cut circles of filo dough, using two for each envelope, brushing with melted butter and sealing the fish into the circles before baking at the same temperature for the same time.

Note: Other fish can, of course, be cooked in the same way. Cooking by this method is simple, quick and retains the full flavour of the fish.

FRANCE
GREAT CLASSICS
Life's simple pleasures

In keeping with this week's fishy theme, here is my recipe for *brandade de morue*, which has been requested by several readers after I mentioned it in a column earlier in the summer. It is not a summery dish, rather more suited to cooler autumn weather, but it would be a pity to let this series on traditional French dishes end without including it.

The version I learnt to enjoy on many Fridays during the time I spent training in Aix, south-west France, is the Languedoc version, which is simplicity itself: just salt cod, olive oil and milk, with white pepper to season it.

There is no garlic in it, which is what they like to add in Provence, and certainly no mashed potato. The thick, creamy texture comes from the emulsion of oil and milk combined with the gelatinous proteins in the fish.

Brandade is one of those comforting, homely dishes, rather like *aligot*, which has been hijacked by many chefs, and which you will now find in grand restaurants tarted up with slices of truffle.

Faites simple, and you cannot go far wrong.

Brandade de morue
(serves 4-6)
1 lb/455g salt cod
1/2 pt/280ml olive oil
1/4 pt/110ml milk
freshly ground white pepper
to garnish: triangles of bread or croutons cut from a baguette, fried in olive oil

Soak the salt cod for at least 24 hours in several changes of water. Place in a saucepan and just cover with fresh water. Simmer for five to eight minutes, depending on the thickness of the fish. If you have been lucky enough to get a thick piece of cod, cook it for longer than the thinner tail or belly piece. Remove the fish from the heat, drain and flake it, discarding skin and bones.

Heat the olive oil and milk in two separate saucepans.

The creamed cod can now be prepared in a food processor, or by hand. If by hand, put the fish in a warm bowl and gradually work in half the olive oil with a wooden spoon until the mixture begins to turn to a soft mass. Then beat in the milk and remaining olive oil, a little at a time, almost as if you were making mayonnaise.

Both oil and milk should be at the same temperature: hot, to help maintain the emulsion.

The resulting *brandade* is pale and creamy, not unlike purée of potatoes.

Season with white pepper. Salt is usually unnecessary because there will be residual salt in the cod, even though well soaked.

F.B.

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Cooling ways with the reds

Robin Young chills to the myth of wines served at room temperature

Everybody thinks they know at least one thing about red wine: that red wine should always be served at room temperature. That one thing is wrong.

Indeed, it gets more wrong with every passing year and is the sort of error that could put you off red wine the whole summer through. Do not let it.

The assumed piece of universal knowledge is a hang-over from the years when wine was not an everyday drink for people in all walks of life, but a luxury only few could afford.

The red wines then brought to Britain were largely the most durable and most heavily tannic reds, intended for laying down in the cellars of the gentry. These were the *crus* of the *classe* clarets, burgundies, Rhône wines, Italian Barolos and the like.

It is true that such wines are best served at room temperature, though even for them the room should be a cool and airy one by modern, centrally-heated standards.

Most red wines have no pretence to be in the same league. They can be served cool, even chilled, and be all the more enjoyable for it.

This advice holds good for most bottles of red wine sold from supermarket shelves, including ruby, tawny and vintage character ports.

It is applicable to all red wine intended to be drunk while still fresh, fruity and young. That includes all the French *vins de pays*: all light-bodied reds such as Beaujolais, Alsace Pinot Noir, Val-

policella, and Bardolino; red wines from the Loire, such as Chinon, Bourgueil, Saumur-Champigny and Sancerre; and also much greater quantities of wine from the Midi and Provence, where modern winemaking methods have turned increasingly to the Beaujolais technique of *macération carbonique*, which yields vivid, fruity mild wine suitable for quick drinking.

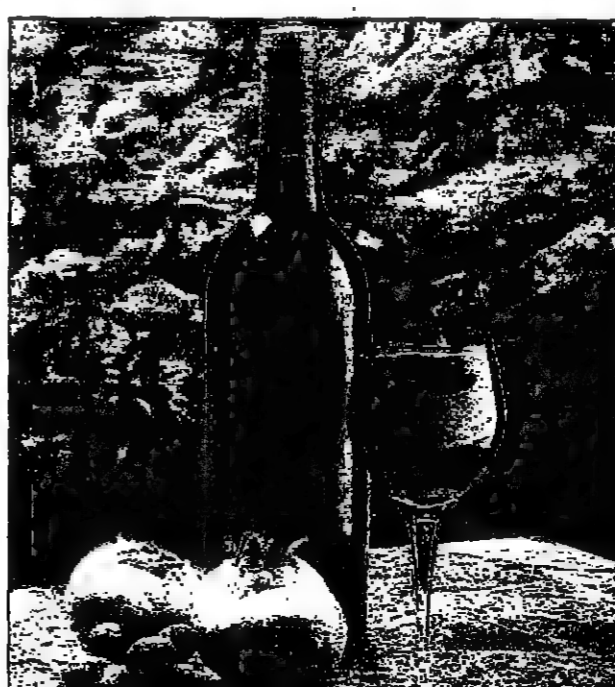
Similar methods are used for many of the cheaper Bordeaux, burgundies and Cotes-du-Rhône, and these too can be drunk quite cool. So can the lighter burgundies from minor villages and fringe appellations, and chateau-bottled light clarets from the satellite regions of Bordeaux, or even some from the classical areas in forward, supple off-vintages such as 1987.

It is the hard preservative tannins, which make fine red wines too tough and unyield-

ing to drink when young, which also make fine red wine impossible to enjoy fully at too cool a temperature when it is mature. The cold accentuates the tannins' toughness.

The reverse is true with fruity, generous reds, which are made to be drunk within three to four years of the vintage. Serve these too warm and they taste sickly and soupy. Cool them, and you accentuate the fresh, fruity flavour, which makes them so delicious and refreshing.

Just as summer food is lighter than hearty, stomach-lining winter meals, so light and chillable reds make the best summer drinking. The lighter the food, the lighter the



Summer drinking: some red wines are better on ice

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Just as summer food is lighter than hearty, stomach-lining winter meals, so light and chillable reds make the best summer drinking. The lighter the food, the lighter the

wine should be, and the lighter the wine the more chilling it can accept. The lightest reds, such as the pink wines they often resemble in colour, can be treated just like white wines. You can drink them with fish — even cold fish at picnics.

The 1991 Beaujolais vintage having been so sensationally good, the early-drinking *crus* — Chiroubles, St-Amour and Brouilly — are ideal summer wines this year for chilling. The weightier *crus*, such as Fleurie, Chénas, Juliénas and Morgon, need not be chilled as deeply. Treat them more like medium burgundies, such as Santenay or Côte-de-Beaune-Villages, which should be served at a temperature that makes them perceptibly cool to the lips.

Loire reds have long suffered in Britain from being served too warm. Even when the neck collar instructs clearly *Servez frais*, restaurants still attempt to serve the wines at around kitchen (rather than room) temperature and hope to get away with it.

Red Sancerre made from Pinot Noir (and Alsace and German wines from the same grape), Gamay de Touraine (and Gamay from anywhere else for that matter), and the red Burgundies, such as Saumur-Champigny, Chinon and St-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil, should all, like Beaujolais, feel distinctly cold to the touch.

These are fashionable wines, so it is high time fashionable restaurants knew how to serve them. If a bottle you have ordered is brought not cold enough, send it back or, if you still want it, have it plunged in a deeply filled ice-bucket, pronto.

On warm days at home, give your red wine an hour in the fridge door. If you have not tried it before, I promise it will open up a new range of enjoyment.

Best buys

● Dornfelder Trocken 1990. Rheinhessen. Weinberg.

Wm. Loebenstein Safeway, £3.99 Soft, supple, fruity, deeply coloured and generously flavoured wine made with the best of Germany's modern red grape varieties (born 1956). Try it with pork or chicken, cool or chilled.

● Rosemount Shiraz/Cabernet Victoria Wine Company, £4.49 Very easy-drinking Australian wine, full of ripe berry flavours. Light chilling makes it really zing.

● 1991 J. Lohr Wildflower Gamay Oudins, £4.49 Juicy California rose-like in Beaujolais.

● Chinon 1990, Coteau-Durheil Majestic Wine Warehouses, £4.99

Fruity red from the Loire, made with Cabernet Franc. Delicious lightly chilled.

● La Roncière: Coteau Pinot 1989, Vin de Pays du Cher, André Vataz Yapp Bros. of Mer, £5.50 Red Sancerre in all but name. Stylish, tasting of wild strawberries. Try chilled with fish or meat.

● Vinho Verde Tinto, Bodega Co-operativa de Ponte de Lima Adnams of Southwold, Suffolk, £5.20 Young, deep-coloured, light-bodied Portuguese red wine which tastes like alcoholic sour cherry juice. Drunk cold on a hot day it is extremely refreshing.

Chiroubles Chateau de Rousset 1991 Davison's, £5.59 Fruity, delightful, from a superb Beaujolais vintage.

050 1 44 330

Tea and sweet dreams

Fiona Beckett visits Betty's Café, where the cakes taste as good as they look.

Here's a test. Walk up Montpelier Parade in Harrogate, North Yorkshire, round the corner, and see if you can get 200 yards down Parliament Street without hesitation, deviation or distraction.

You can't. No surprise. It's more than flesh and blood can bear to pass by the windows of Betty's Café.

On display is a selection of strawberry pastries: golden puff pastry hearts, topped with cream and strawberries; strawberry and kiwi gâteau; strawberry torte, oozing cream from layers of feather-light white Genoese sponge; strawberry meringues cunningly coated with a layer of dark chocolate to stop them going soggy; perfect glistening strawberry tarts.

Step inside, and there laid out on the marble-topped oak-panelled counters are cakes you forgot still existed: chocolate fancies, Swiss rolls, vanilla slices, macarons. There are tarts and truffles, éclairs and puffs, strudel and sachertorte, Earl Grey tea loaves, pasties and pikelets and poppy-seed twists.

At the back of the shop there is a café (for which you will have to queue), where you can regress to the nursery with egg and cress sandwiches, Welsh rarebit, hot milk and honey and cinnamon toast: where perfect tea is served in silver teapots by waitresses in broderie anglaise blouses and black skirts.

Betty's has been undermining the weight-watchers of Harrogate since 1919, when Frederick Belmont, a young Swiss confectioner, opened his first Betty's Café Tearooms. Its success was based on recognising the need for ladies to have somewhere pleasant to while away the time while the gentlemen were closeted in their clubs.

In 1937 a second branch opened in York, which Belmont, by now prosperous enough to afford luxury cruises, grandiosely modelled on

the Queen Mary. Further outposts appeared in Ilkley and Northallerton, both in Yorkshire, all supplied with produce from Betty's own bakery. During the 1960s Betty's merged with the even older firm of Taylor's Tea and Coffee to make the operation self-sufficient.

Today Betty's is a multimillion-pound business employing 650 staff, but it is still family-run. Victor Wild, Belmont's nephew, is chairman, his sons Jonathan and Tony are managing director and coffee buying director respectively, and daughter-in-law Lesley is the creative director.

"It's my father's fiftieth year in the business this year," Jonathan says. "We recently worked out that we must have served more than 50 million people during that time — that's like giving a cup of tea to the entire population of the UK."

The family has worked hard to retain Betty's appeal. The cosiness of the tearooms conceals a sophisticated marketing operation. "Though the customers feel that Betty's is unchanging and solid as a rock, in fact we're constantly updating and refining things," Jonathan says.

Hence the presence among the well-loved favourites of a constant stream of new products. There are sun-dried tomato and olive bread wreaths, crisp little cheese croissants, and savoury mushroom and chestnut roulade. There are speciality cakes with good keeping qualities tailored for the mail-order service — Panforte di Siena, packed with nuts, spices and honey, and the elaborate Venetian Festival Cake, which last year won Lesley Norris, the product development manager, the title of Confectioner of the Year.

There are sophisticated seasonal promotions: strawberries in summer; a range of "harvest" cakes for autumn, modelled to look like vegetables. At Christmas there are puddings, cakes and seasonal nov-



Sugar and spice, and many things nice: Betty's at Harrogate, the perfect place to sit and watch the world go by: the company has more than 70 years of tradition

elties (this year, elaborately decorated gingerbread houses and white chocolate polar bears) and at Easter deliciously old-fashioned hand-made eggs, decorated with chocolate pussy willows, sugar paste bluebells, primroses and pansies.

Tea and coffee run the gamut from the obscure to the everyday. For coffee aficionados there is the conversation-stopping Ethiopian Mocha Hararighe Longberry, Yemeni "Heights of Araby" Ismaili or Mexican Maragogipe, while tea buffs can sip Formosa Pi Lo Chun, China Lu Shan Yun Wu, or the £11.25-a-quarter Japan Green Gyokura. But the best-seller is the super-strong, basic Yorkshire Tea which has acquired something of a cult following.

The attention to detail throughout the company is prodigious. Yorkshire tea is blended differently for each region of the country to take account of variations in the water supply. Strawberries are individually glazed to make sure no errant juice mars the perfection of

the tart or cake which they adorn. During the hot weather the bakery starts work at 3am to ensure the chocolate doesn't bloom.

The miracle is that it avoids being smug or snooty. Service is genuinely friendly without the have-a-nice-day breeziness that afflicts most customer-friendly organisations. Unusually for Britain, children and babies are welcomed.

The children's menu is sensible. You can order just a sausage. Or a plate of chips. Or a tomato and cucumber salad. But there are also child-friendly treats — home-made ice-cream milk shakes, banana boats and ice-cream downs.

At £2.98 for a child-size Welsh rarebit, or £1.35 for a small orange juice, Betty's doesn't always come cheap, but for just £1 — the price of a cup of coffee — you can sit in 1930s elegance and watch the world go by. "It's an affordable treat," says Jonathan Wild. "Most people will never have dinner at the Savoy, but they can have the very best afternoon tea at Betty's."

Fresh strawberry and almond tart (serves 10-12)	
Pâté sucré	
185g/6½ oz plain flour	
75g/2½ oz butter	
75g/2½ oz sifted icing sugar	
a small pinch of salt	
2 size-4 eggs at room temperature	
Almond filling	
35g/1¼ oz butter	
100g/3½ oz margarine	
65g/2¼ oz caster sugar	
1 size-4 egg	
230g/8½ oz ground almonds	
10g/¼ oz plain flour	
20g/¾ oz rum	
1 jar strawberry preserve	
500g/1lb fresh strawberries	

To make pâté sucré, place flour on work surface and make a well in the centre. Cut the butter into small pieces, place in the centre of the flour and work it with your fingertips until completely softened. Add the sugar and salt, mix well then add eggs and mix. Gradually draw

the flour into the mixture. When everything is thoroughly mixed, work the dough two or three times with the palm of your hand until it is very smooth. Roll into a ball, flatten the top slightly, then wrap in greaseproof paper or a polythene bag and refrigerate for several hours.

To make the filling, cream the butter, margarine and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, a little at a time, until well combined. Finally fold in the ground almonds, flour and rum. Place in the fridge for about 30 minutes to firm up a little before use.

Roll out pâté sucré about ¼ in thick and line a loose-bottomed 11 in fluted flan tin. Spread the base of the pastry thinly with strawberry preserve then spoon in the almond filling, so that the tart is about three-quarters full. Level off evenly and bake in a moderate oven (180C/350F/gas 4) for 25-35 minutes until the filling is firm to the touch and both filling and pastry a nice golden brown.

When cold, spread the top of the tart with more strawberry preserve. Slice the tart strawberries in half and arrange them on top to completely cover the filling. Finally, using more of the strawberry preserve, place in a pan, add a little cold water and bring to the boil. Brush the hot glaze over the strawberries, covering them completely to give a glossy finish.

● Betty's Café and Tearooms are at 1 Parliament Street, Harrogate (0423 502746), 32 The Grove, Ilkley (0943 608029), 188 High Street, Northallerton (0609 775154) and 6-8 St Helen's Square, York (0904 659142). The Harrogate and York cafés are open from 9am-9pm every day. Betty's at Ilkley is open from 9am-6pm Mon-Thur and 9am-7.30pm Fri-Sat, and at Northallerton from 9am-5.30pm (10am-5.30pm on Sundays).

Speciality teas and coffees are also available from Taylor's, 46 Stonegate, York (0904 622865) (Mon-Sat 9am-5.30pm, Sunday 9am-6pm) and from Betty's by Post (0423 531211), which also supplies biscuits, chocolates and cakes from the Betty's range.

Nights at the round table

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

SIR ROY STRONG

My wife and I have what people call one of these new marriages. I do all the cooking and she does all the driving. I've always cooked. I absolutely love it.

When we entertain, we like to eat in different rooms. It sounds eccentric, I know, but perhaps one's thinking back to the 18th century when there weren't fixed dining-rooms and people just moved around. So we have this small dining-room overlooking the garden, a morning room that's really the evening dining-room, and a drawing room where we can seat six.

For a lunch party for eight or ten people, though, we'll probably use the entrance hall, where we have a round table — people simply being jammed around it. You must never have anything so large you cannot talk across it. I adore laying the table, and our table always looks spectacular. Usually, I prepare the sort of first course that can be served soon after guests arrive. For the second I make them get up and help themselves from the dining-room next door. Then Julia and I "bottle" (or pass) the pudding around between us. And we have this absolute rule that nobody even attempts to help. We say: "Please don't, because when you ask us back we have no intention of helping you at all."

I'm incredibly organised. I have two to 300 cookery books, mostly paperback. Usually I go for favourite cooks such as Marcella Hazan, Jane Grigson and Pamela Harlech — I never invent recipes. Each book is marked with the date I've used each recipe and put on a card index. My wife is enormously industrious, too. Apart from being the greatest cleaner up ever, she runs the preserves cupboard and makes all sorts of exotic things like quince vodka, wonderful marmalades, chutneys and vanilla pears. She also cuts out recipes and glues them all on to old pieces of A4 paper. These go into loose-leaf files under the headings of meat, poultry, fish, fruit, vegetables, pasta and so on. We call this the *Oman Strong Cookbook*. As for food, I suppose it's true to say one's now entering one's polenta period. We certainly eat far less meat than we did. I cook marvellous vegeta-



bles, perhaps broccoli with chopped ginger, garlic and a little oyster sauce for a starter, followed by a pasta main course and a light pudding.

Being so interested in cooking, one naturally assumes others are interested too. I've discovered, however, that people bringing up children are absolute disasters to cater for. Fifteen years of their culinary life are obliterated by the headings of meat, whatever. Now I've got a dinner book in which I write down things people don't like. Fortunately, although I may have occasionally misjudged people's tastes, nobody's said, "What's this muck?"

The thing I'm not awfully good at is wine because it's just so expensive. I have a terrible horror of a bottle costing more than £5 appearing on the table. I always look for offers from Harveys of Bristol — they never let us down. For ordinary drinking, I find Sainsbury's Italian wines excellent. My wife and I know a very broad range of people. At one end there's the huntin', shootin' and fishin' types — at the other wild people from the theatre. Sometimes you can put them together and it's wonderful, but most of the time you avoid it like the plague. I do think one of the nightmare things is placing people at the table. You've got

the married couples, the divorced lot, people who live together, chaps who live together and girls who live together. And where we are, in Hereford, people still cling to the idea that the sexes should alternate. Seating them so that you get a balanced conversation is an incredible art.

Some people just don't realise all the effort that goes into it. I remember once somebody not turning up for a lunch party and, when I rang her, she said something like, "Oh, I didn't think it was important". I was absolutely stricken. One had this roomful of people and our round dining-table was looking stunning. I had to contract the whole of that table and behave as if nothing had happened. At that moment I could have strangled her. I cannot stand bad manners.

In the past, Julia and I have been in the habit of taking our guests round our garden but we've now been forced to realise some of them aren't too keen. Even when you offer them wellington boots, they sort of shudder away into a corner and cling to their coats. We get the distinct feeling that all they want to do is climb in their cars and go home. So we are now making a list of people who hate going round gardens...

Sir Roy Strong's Favourite Avocado Starter	
3 ripe avocados	
1 150 oz Croisse and Blackwell's Clear Consommé	
½ a lemon	
2½ oz chopped walnuts	
2tbsp double cream	
8 slices of crisp streaky bacon	

Liquidise peeled avocado with three-quarters of the consommé and the cream. Half-fill individual ramekin dishes and set in fridge. Then add walnuts, spoon on rest of mixture and allow to set. Lastly, pour a thin layer of consommé on top and sprinkle with crispy grilled chopped bacon. Chilling time about two hours altogether. Serves eight. (From *Feast Without Fuss*, Pamela Harlech)

Interview by Paddy Burt
● Writer and historian Sir Roy Strong is married to the designer and writer Dr Julia Trevelyan Oman.

Relais & Châteaux: a unique Times offer



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This superb offer is valid for unlimited stays between September 15 and December 31 1992, when the booking is made in advance and directly with the chosen hotel. To qualify simply collect any six of the seven tokens published in *The Times*. Token one is published here. Tokens two to seven will be published Monday to Saturday in the coming week with details of how to apply for your *Times* "Passport to Privilege" card, plus a listing and the tariffs of the participating hotels.



RELAIS & CHATEAUX TOKEN



Hôtelerie du Bas Bréau

WHERE TO WALK

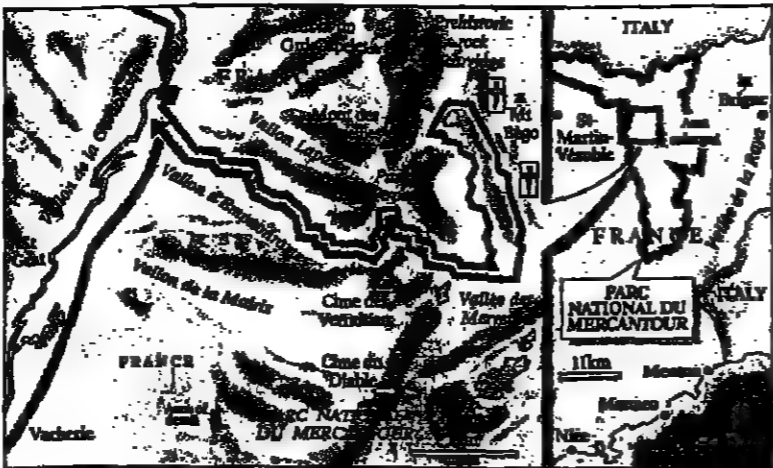
THE high, disputed lands on the ridge of the Alpes Maritimes seem like a million miles away from the chic traffic jams of the Côte — and yet it is possible to drive up from Nice and within two hours be trekking in alpine meadows alive with gentians and lilies, chamois and marmots.

I chose the steep route up from St Grati in the beautiful Vallon de la Gordolasque, on a tour led by Michel Bricola from the Bureau des Guides in St-Martin-Vésubie (93 03 26 60 or 93 03 44 30) heading for the extraordinary Vallée des Merveilles. This rocky basin among the peaks was a hunting park for the border princelings who alternately supported Italian or French interests for centuries. Part of it became French as late as 1949.

The valley is famous for its 100,000 rock carvings of weird witch-doctor figures and geometrical patterns, daggers and bulls, brought to the attention of the modern world by an American archaeologist in 1896. It is the most extensive open-air art gallery in Europe and still shrouded in mystery.

It is possible to get into the fringes of the Parc National du Mercantour, which covers more than 250,000 acres and has no permanent inhabitants, in four-wheel-drive vehicles from La Brigue to the East, but the exciting way in to the Vallée des Merveilles is on foot, from the west.

The early-morning climb is rough for those who are not in training. One of the rewards is the richness of the flora: 2,000 of France's 4,200 species of flowering plants are found in the park. The saunders and sempervivums are superb. Spring, summer and



autumn are all packed into a brief burst of five months between snowmelt and the first blizzard of winter.

We saw several small groups of chamois on the meadows near the Pas de l'Arpette, at about 7,000ft, but I was told that the ibex, most magnificent of mountain animals, are even higher in July. Red deer and roe deer live lower down in the forest, as does the mouflon, the wild sheep of southern Europe, which has been introduced here. Wild boar are numerous in the valleys.

The enormous lammergeier, half eagle, half vulture, has been seen again in the national park after being locally extinct for a century, and golden eagles are widespread. Guided tours in search of these and other birds and mammals set out from St-Martin-Vésubie on two days each week (Wednesday and Sunday).

Just as well guarded as the fauna are the Bronze Age carvings around Mont

Bégo. Wardens watch over them in summer, snow and ice shroud them in winter.

It is a haunting region to visit. After the hard climb, visitors are left in awe of the energy of the people who came up here, far above their grazing grounds, to etch pictures of weapons, oxen, tools and unexplained grids on the rocks.

Guided tours from St-Martin-Vésubie operate on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday in summer (subject to at least five people joining the group) at a cost of about £10 for the eight-hour day. There are also two-day trips venturing over the mountains into Italy, staying in a refuge overnight, for about £50. A one-week trip through the heights of the park costs about £250. Both are for the fit and moderately experienced hiker-walker. The season is short: trekking is over by mid-September. Details from Bureau des Guides, Rue Cagnoli, St-Martin-Vésubie, 06450 France. There is a small museum and visitor centre of the national park in the village.

WHERE TO EAT

Also try the "lamb without heads" (lambes sans têtes) on the menu, which are slices of veal wrapped around a savoury stuffing. The local chefs know how to cook rabbit, too.

Asparagus, tomatoes, aubergines and artichokes all come from local market gardens and are at their best along the Côte. Ratatouille is at home here: versions dependent on frozen or far-transported vegetables are not so good. France's fast food is as awful as anyone else's, and the best meals are often found in small, traditional restaurants, unresisted and irresistible.

At the other end of the spectrum, if you want to check out the big names of cuisine along the Côte, they are:

Christian Morisset, Restaurant La Terrasse, Hotel Juana, Avenue Gallie la Pinede, Antibes-Juan-les-Pins 06160 (93 61 08 70); Christian Willer, Hotel Martinez, La Croisette, Cannes 06400 (93 94 30 30); Jacques Chibois, Restaurant Le Royal Gray, Hotel Le Gray d'Albion, Rue des Serbes, Cannes 06400 (93 68 54 54).

Roger Verge (the longest-serving name on this list), Le Moulin de

Mongins, Quartier Notre Dame de Vie, Mongins 06250 (93 75 78 24); Dominique Le Sane, Restaurant Le Chantier, Hotel Negresco, Promenade des Anglais, Nice 06000 (93 88 39 51); Jean-Jacques Joutoux, Restaurant Le Provencal, Avenue Denis Semeria, St Jean-Cap-Ferrat 06230 (93 76 03 97).

Other recommended restaurants from recent visits include La Reserve, Beaulieu; Le Colombier d'Or, St Paul-de-Vence (the poodle at the next table enjoyed all four courses); L'Eclaircie on the Old Harbour, Nice; Les Mascadins, Mongins.

Wine is a difficult subject on the Riviera. Local pundits were lyrical about Provencal wines, but most British experts of my acquaintance nod sagely and can later be seen buying Burgundy or claret before heading for home. "Palatable" seems to be the usual description.

Bellet is a comparatively expensive wine from the hillsides close to Nice — available in red, white and rose. Other Provencal names to look for are Villars-Var (Clos St-Joseph), Cassis (a good dry white), La Palette and Bandol. Ot is the best-known label among the Côte-de-Provence wines.

CÔTE D'AZUR

For 100 years, the French Riviera has been flush with class, cachet and lots of cash. Today its attractions still sparkle as brightly as the sea, and party time runs from Easter to Christmas. Willy Newlands salutes the ultimate hedonist's resort

Holidays with style are not yet dead. They survive in the place where they were first created, on the Côte d'Azur. Expensive, exclusive and chic, the sunny coastline from Menton to St-Tropez is lovingly greened with money. Astronomically costly villas stand in terraced, palm-shaded gardens overlooking a famously blue sea dotted with equally valuable yachts. Everything the rich hedonist could want is here — casinos, fine restaurants, de luxe hotels, a place to park the Learjet and the schooner.

And alongside there exists an ancient France and a real Provence only a dozen miles inland, where the brilliant light bathes olive groves and fields of perfumed roses, where sleeping medieval villages perch on dizzy cliffs and a drink of the local wine under the plane trees in the square is as relaxing a moment as you can find anywhere.

Like London, where Eaton Square's wealth lives within a couple of blocks of the cheap hotels around Victoria Bus Station, the Côte d'Azur is a place where you need to know the right addresses: Cannes is in, Capri is out. And this stylishness is not governed entirely by cash. There are charming villages and good hotels within reach of everyone's pocket.

One of the biggest pleasures of this coast is the fact that it was developed early in the history of tourism. All the steep land between the hair-raising Corniche roads and the Mediterranean was built over long ago. It has had time to mature and there is none of the angst of the returning holiday-maker who feels obliged to cry: "But this used to be open fields..." Rebuilding goes on constantly. However, the scene is already set. This is an artificial coast with a natural hinterland.

The Riviera is the stuff of romantic legend. Painters have painted here (Matisse, Picasso, Renoir), writers have written (F. Scott Fitzgerald, Somerset Maugham), statesmen have pondered (Napoleon, Churchill), stars have come to rest (Carole, Bardot). Nowhere else in the world is there such a heady mix of culture and money, climate and history, sophistication and service.

Critics carp about stony beaches and ugly concrete buildings, about traffic jams and high prices, but these are small details in the overall



The in place: a short stroll in stylish Rue d'Antibes, Cannes

picture. The Côte d'Azur may have techno-parks full of computer companies like IBM and Digital, France's second-busiest airport and the industrial estates of Nice, but she is still able to put on her bikini (which she invented) and wear a good-time smile on her pretty face.

July and August can be over-crowded, and rather frayed. January and February are wet, windy and boring, but for the other eight months, the Côte is still the place to be. The old Riviera from the 1920s is not forgotten: "Menton's dowdy, Monte's brass, Nice is rowdy, Cannes is Class." Add that you play away at St-Tropez and you have a shorthand summary of all the main resorts along the glamour coast.

As a seasoned traveller once observed to me over a drink on the terrace of the Carlton Hotel

on the Croisette: "This is what Italy would be like, if only it could get its act together."

The mood is certainly South European. People's characters change and lift as they drive down from the north into the searing light of Provence. This is not the slow-moving rural France of Normandy or Limousin. It has defied the doom-mongers: and proved that tourism does not have to find new places, that visitors do not necessarily become bored by the sea-and-beach pleasures of the seaside. The Riviera sparkles on. The party never stops from Easter to Christmas.

Somewhere not far west of Cannes, the Côte d'Azur peters out into the less ritzy Western Riviera, baked by oak-clad hills rather than mountains of olive and pine. And somewhere before Toulon the flat coastline

becomes just the South of France. There is more history, but less glamour.

The reputation of the Riviera as a pleasant region in which to linger dates from a year-long visit to Nice by the novelist Tobias Smollett in 1763. Revolution and Napoleon intervened until 1822, when British residents in Nice put up money for the creation of the seafront walk, the Promenade des Anglais. In general, the French do not have a high opinion of the British, but along the Côte they admire us because we are faithful lovers of their ravishing, warm corner of Europe and half a million of us return every year.

On the Croisette, the promenade of Cannes, they remember with affection Lord Henry Brougham, the English Lord Chancellor who was forced to stop there in 1834 when an outbreak of cholera prevented him from crossing the border into Italy. He found the winter climate delightful and told his friends. A fashion was created. He spent 34 winters at Cannes and made its reputation.

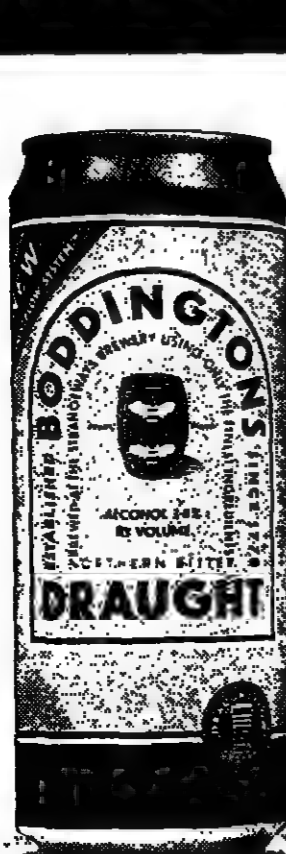
The Season has moved from winter to summer. But the cachet lingers on for the British, even though stylish Cannes now gets fat on conferences and trade fairs such as the Film Festival (during which, a local hotelier blandly informs me, it is possible to sleep 300 people in 200 beds) rather than on tycoons and maharajas.

The greatest virtue of the Côte d'Azur is her willingness to please. Few places in the tourist universe offer more variety, from high sophistication to tough physical activity, theme-parks and casinos, stylish promenades and mountain passes, grand prix races and alpine flowers, good food and amusing company. It's no wonder that these 70 miles of coast draw more people than the entire Caribbean — a remarkable 1 per cent of the overseas tourist traffic of the whole world.

To the first-time visitor, planning a holiday with brochures and sips on the knee, there is not much difference. Two tips later, you will have defined accurately just where you want to be, balancing excitement with relaxation, glitz with cost.

Nice is a city of 400,000 people with a mix of commerce and tourism, brash modernity and old-fashioned charm. It has nearly 250 hotels, 18 museums and galleries, and offers the excitement of a city with the added delights of the seaside

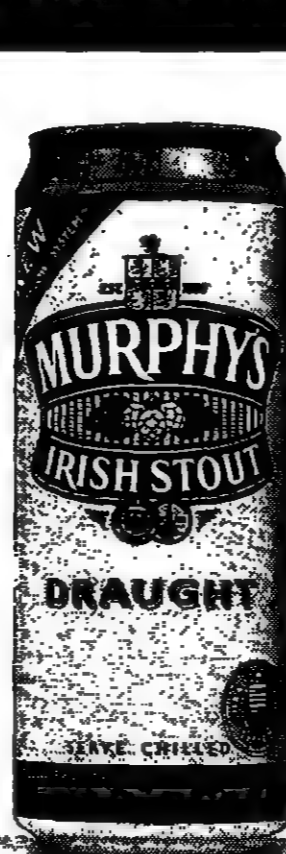
No medals for guessing who's got the best beer offers during the Olympics.



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WHERE TO STAY

THE top category of hotel — the super de luxe palace grand with all bells and whistles — is very well represented along the Côte d'Azur. Leaving aside Monaco, the most enduring names are the immaculate Hotel du Cap-Esterre on the Cap d'Antibes (93 61 39 01), which charges £400 a night in high season for a superior room; the Negresco, on the Promenade des Anglais, Nice (93 88 39 51), a pink National Monument with mock Louis Quatorze and Empire interiors, surprisingly unstuffy and full of decorator's jokes, charges £120-£200 for a double room; the glamorous Bel Air Cap Ferrat (93 76 00 21), formerly the Grand, has views of the sea, fine gardens and a beach club which offers pricey day membership and a club sandwich for £17, if you want to join other beautiful people beside the pool but do not plan to spend up to £900 on a suite for the night; at Cannes, the wedding-cake splendours of the Carlton (93 68 91 68) on the



Balcony built for two: the Hotel Welcome at Villefranche

Croisette are a famous backdrop to film festival starlets. Drink on the terrace, or stay for £120-£300 for a double room.

Also in Cannes, I usually stay at the reliable Gray d'Albion (92 99 79 79), two blocks back from the beach and offering big corporate discounts in low season on its £100 rack rate. I also have pleasant memories of the Hotel Welcome (93 76 76 93) on the quayside at Villefranche,

with views of the port — double room, £40-£80; for sporting breaks, try the Golf Opie Valbonne (93 42 00 08), about £40 up to £120 for a double, or also near Opie, the large Club Med, with 900 beds in a replica of a buzzing village, where sports are included in the full-board — £450-£650 a week (93 09 71 00).

In high season, there is a vast choice of places to stay at any price. The rules are that prices go up in July-August, and as you get closer to the beach, and fall as you go west of Cannes. The typical price per person in June or September would be £30-£50 for room-only in a two or three-star hotel in one of the seaside resorts but not on the front. For camping and cottages it is wise to get help from specialists such as VFB (0242 580187), Meon (0730 266561), Bowhills (0489 877627) or Eurocamp (0865 633844). A tent on site, including electricity, costs about £18-£22 a night (four sharing).

Guide des Hôtels is available from Comité Régional du Tourisme, 55, Promenade des Anglais, 06000 Nice. A list of furnished houses and apartments can be had from UDOTSI, 2 Rue Deloy, 06000 Nice (93 80 84 84). Low-season studios sleeping 2/3 start at about £100 a week. Country cottages are listed by Gites de France, 55 Promenade des Anglais, 06000 Nice (93 44 39 39) and Youth Hostels by Centre Information Jeunesse Côte d'Azur, 19 Rue Giffredo, 06000 Nice (93 80 93 93) with prices about £13 a night, full board. French Travel Service (081-742 3377) has self-drive, self-catering and fly-drive holidays.

WHAT TO DO

LONG-distance paths in the Provence foothills have stirring signposts: GR5 indicates Zagreb to the east and Lisbon to the west; GR5 has Nice to the south and simply Holland to the north. There are scores of well-marked paths. If you want a half-day of meandering in the meadows or a fortnight of tough trekking, it is all here. Information is in: Alpes d'Azur: A Thousand Peaks for a Star, an informative brochure from the French Tourist Office, 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL (please enclose £1 in stamps towards P&P).

Once you are in the region, there are many short courses and breaks available. Particularly recommended is the Escapades brochure from the Comité Régional du Tourisme Côte d'Azur, 55 Promenade des Anglais, BP602-06011 Nice cedex 1 France. This lists hang-gliding and mule trekking, kayaks and rock-climbing, mountain bikes and, for some very French reason, château honeymoons. There is also a Weekend Nautiques brochure, with diving, sailing and other water sports. Both in French. Information on trout fishing available.

Riding is a marvellous way to see the glories of the Alpes Maritimes in summer. Denis Longfellow has day trips around Boreon-Lantosque in summer for about £30 a day (93 03 03 00 or 93 03 30 23). Many others are listed by the Association Régionale de Tourisme Equestre Provence Côte d'Azur (93 42 62 98).

One area in which the Côte d'Azur cannot compete with the Costa is golf. There are fewer than 20 courses and ranges, yet more than 300 public or open club tennis courts.

HOW TO GO

Competition on the London prices down and increased the Flight Planner lists 17 ways Headrow, Calwark or Stansted main operators are Air France, Midland, Air UK and Air Canada. The only way to go first-class from Birmingham and Manchester is by train.

More than half of all British rather than drive the 750 mile journey.

The return fare London-Nice is £152.80, second class, plus £1 sleeper. The first class fare is an extra £126. Trains leave London at 10.05 on the 10th. The rail-Vacances Pass costs second-class travel within a 10.

First-class Motorail, Calais with car, sharing double sleep £133.

With the completion of the drivers now have a better France, avoiding Paris and the Channel Tunnel.

Packages still offer the best plans, and give considerable choice. Thomson has three-nights de luxe Negresco, on the Pr E479, including B&B and rent.

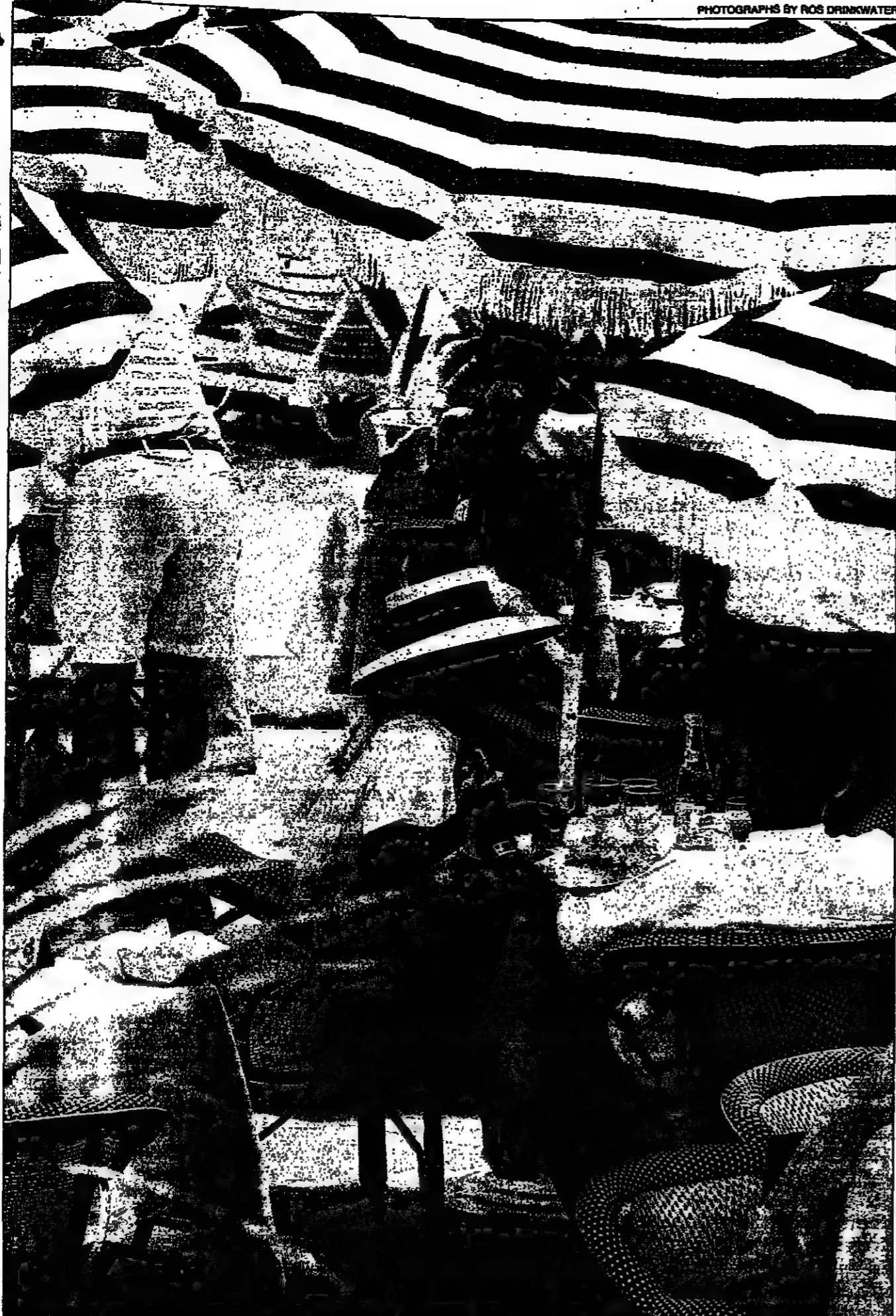
Air France holidays offer very late bookings, discount deals. Their hotel holidays sit in a two-star hotel on the Côte. Also Monaco packages. (C8)

GETTING

The Metazur is the key 1 through all the main resorts frequent trains. The stations are a fare of about £2.50 for a journey, for example, there is a train to Turin, through the mc Most dramatic is the 90-mile from Nice to Digne les Bains plunges through gorges and these, and Railover passes, Piccadilly, London W1V or 0750. For bus services, contact G du Pailion, 06300 Nice 93 85 85.

Every form of transport is available and boats to cars and chalets from the local tourist offices. Excellent helicopter service for flights daily, about £20 which, coast. Recommended as an on

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROS DRINKWATER



Romance on the Riviera: beautiful people meet under sun-soaked umbrellas at the Carlton beach restaurant in Cannes

and the Alpine hinterland. Staying here is much cheaper than elsewhere on the Riviera: a double room in a two-star hotel costs about £25 a night.

Menton seems to await the return of the European aristocracy who played here in the 1990s. The most charming

resort in winter, it has the best low-season climate: quieter than most of the Côte in summer, with fine gardens.

Antibes has lots of picturesque history, and the fine Picasso museum in the old castle, but rocks and shingle rather than a beach. For sand,

and a choice of hotels, adjoining Juan Les Pins is better: its flavour is more 18-30 though.

Cannes is elegant — a beach resort which has managed to stay super-smart for a century. Everyone has had a good time here, from emperors and tsars to harem and stars, but tiring

is important. Unless you are taking part, avoid the television junketing in April, the Film Festival in May, the music festival in mid-winter, the traffic of high summer. Pick a week in June or late September.

© Next week: the Alps in summer

WHAT TO BUY

Most of the world's beach-and-sun resorts have rotten shopping: the warmer the sun the gronier the souvenirs. The Côte d'Azur breaks this rule, like so many others. The shopping is excellent and varied. From designer dresses and jewellery in couturiers' own boutiques, to flowers, herbs and pottery in the street markets, there is big-city choice.

Near the casinos and grand hotels, the quality of the shops is comparable with the best *arrondissements* of Paris. It is interesting how short is the distance that winning gamblers venture in order to spend their winnings on their ladies — a couturier's shop is dead if it is more than 200 yards from the gaming tables at Monte Carlo, Nice or Cannes. So Chanel, Celine, Hermès, Gucci, St Laurent are squeezed in close to the money. Summer fashions and sportswear are superb and the shops are much friendlier than their Paris equivalents.

Top fashion is for everyone here. At the opposite end of the scale, the easy way to shop for food, wine and all essentials along the Riviera is in one of the glossy hypermarkets on the outskirts of town, which have big parking spaces. In particular, they stock wines at bargain prices, and this is the place to check out the Provençal vineyards' products.

Souvenir shopping can be pursued in lively street markets. Several of these also have acres of brilliant flowers and potted plants, especially at Cannes (Jardin des Allées, daily except Saturday) and Nice (Cours Saleya, daily except Monday, when it becomes an antique market). A charming souvenir is a few bunches of dried roses. Shops usually shut from noon-3pm, and stay open late.

Look out for carved olive wood (especially salad sets), scented soaps (mimosa, lavender), painted silk scarves, glazed stoneware, glasswork, woven carpets and enamel tiles made by craftsmen in Vallauris, St Paul-de-Vence, Biot, Cabris, Coaraze, Eze, Sospel, Tournefort-sur-Loup and Entrevaux. In these villages and in many others throughout Provence there are hundreds of artists offering original work — in the archway leading into the steep streets of St Paul-de-Vence more than 50 artists and galleries are listed and it is not unique.

Terracotta pots and garden statuary are cheaper here and the choice is wide (and almost tasteless).

Provence is the home of perfumery, with the heart of this romantic trade at Grasse. The scent factories process about 500 tons of rose petals each season, plus jasmine, violet, mimosa, orange blossom, lavender and imported blooms.

Wholesalers produce the basic essences from which famous blends are made elsewhere, but they also have retail shops and factory tours. Parfumerie Fragonard (93 36 44 65), Parfumerie Falmar (93 02 20 00), Parfumerie Molinard (93 36 01 62)



Making perfect scents: essence de parfum from fragrant Provence



Cut or dried: flowers are on sale at street markets in Cannes and Nice



First-class carriers: Chanel bags

and Fleuron de Grasse (93 70 06 49) are open all year round. There are also perfumeries in Eze and Vallauris.

The untrained nose is quickly bewildered and cannot tell mimosa from oilseed rape after ten minutes, so try to make a quick decision.

In the quieter streets of Cannes there are numerous perfume shops which stock obscure scents by all the French makers, some dating back half a century. Don't write off a fragrance as being unobtainable until you have browsed through their stock.



Dress to thrill: Cannes shopping

ET THERE

Nice route has brought flight number of services — the ABC of getting there direct from 4, and 14 indirect flights. The line, British Airways, British Air, it is also possible to join the A14 flight on three days a week. There are a few direct flights

from the area fly to Nice, from Calais.

Notion with French Railways is using AF flights from Heathrow, Manchester, Glasgow, and linking with rest of the trip. Glasgow-Nice

by train, via Dover-Calais, is for a couchette or £76 for a 208.60; with a special sleeper, (Victoria) at 2.30pm and wing morning.

£85 for four days of unlimited night's holiday.

Nice, is £697 for two people per. Cross-Channel fares add

Calais-Dijon A26 motorway down the eastern side of dreaded Périphérique.

prices, if they fit in with your routine on each add-on as car Citybreaks in October to the end of August, Nice, for a flight. From agents.

ability-drive packages with on Club Class and midweek at £194 for a three-night stay including flight from London. (8 6981).

AROUND

the Côte. It is a rail service and onward into Italy, with 40-minute Nice-Cannes and a good excursion from Cannes to Tende and Cuneo, on the Pinecone Express (five services daily) which over dizzy bridges. Details of from French Railways, 179 in Paris SNCF, Nice (93 87 50) or Route de Nice, Promenade 61 81.

available for hire, from bicycles to motorbikes. Details from the airport. There is an airport to Monaco (25 miles) gives a splendid view of the

PROPERTY

There is no shortage of seaside homes for sale in the Côte d'Azur, although much of its Mediterranean coastline lies buried under a sea of concrete and skyscraper blocks.

Demand has been slow to recover from the sharp dip following the rise in British interest rates in 1989. Although the market has flattened, residential property costs remain high. Nevertheless, the fall-off in demand has had an impact on resale values, and cash buyers can negotiate up to 15 per cent off asking prices in some places.

Prices vary enormously, mostly depending on location. Properties tend to become cheaper the further west you travel, and prices slip away from the coast. But, anything close to a golf course will be more expensive. Being a popular area year-round, letting potential is good.

A new two-bedroomed flat in Antibes, overlooking the islands in the Bay of Cannes, starts at £200,000, with newly built three-bedroomed villas from £400,000. Resale property is more affordable; a smart second-hand flat close to the sea at Cannes La Bocca, with two bedrooms, would cost between £80,000 and £100,000; a studio set back from the sea at St Raphaël, about £50,000.

The cheapest resale house on this part of the coast is about £160,000, rising to more than £3 million. You can buy a detached two-bedroomed house, with a private pool, about five minutes from the sea at Antibes, for £180,000 — or an opulent four-bedroomed "Belle Époque" villa with exotic gardens, swimming-pool and sea views, on the Cap d'Antibes, for £1.1m, through agents Property France, based at Portway, Wantage, Oxfordshire (0235 772211).

The same agent is asking £195,000 for a Provencal-style four-bedroomed, three-bath, with mature Mediterranean gardens and a palm-fringed pool, overlooking the



Exotic: this opulent villa at Cap d'Antibes costs £1.1 million

Bay of Cannes, about 45 minutes' drive from the airport at Nice.

A short drive into the hills behind St-Tropez and property prices become more reasonable. Newly built terraced apartments, set on a hillside with views, five miles inland, are selling from £34,000 for a studio and from £75,000 for two bedrooms. The UK agent is South of France specialist Domus Abroad, based at 4 Gardiner Road, London NW3 (071-409 0571).

Alternatively, you can buy a rustic-style townhouse apartment in a newly created hilltop village near Mougins, about 15 minutes' drive inland from Cannes, for £30,000 for a studio, to £120,000 for three bedrooms. Agent: Property France (as before).

For those with more modest pockets, there are a number of sale-and-leaseback schemes on

offer. With this sort of deal you can buy a property at a reduced price — usually a 30 per cent reduction — in return for surrendering the rental rights for 11 years, during which time you retain the use of the property for six weeks a year. There are no running costs to pay for 11 years. The developer pays all the bills — management fees, maintenance costs, insurance, water and electricity.

Pierre & Vacances, a French company, is selling apartments close to the Cap Estérel golf course at St Raphaël, along the coast between Cannes and St-Tropez, at leaseback prices ranging from £55,000 for one-bedroomed and from £65,000 for two-bedroomed flats. Its UK office is 3, Shepherd Market, London W1 (071-495 2414).

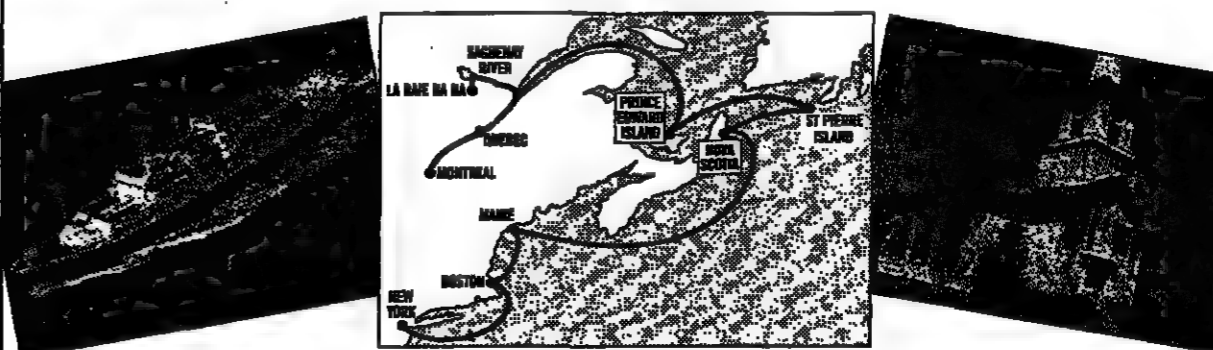
CHERYL TAYLOR

WHEN TO GO

YOU can catch a festival of some kind almost any time you visit — there are 100 traditional flower carnivals in the villages, 20 international festivals (films, jazz, 500 concerts and 50 big sporting events). The problem is how to avoid the show traffic rather than finding something to do. The booklet *Festival Azur '92*, available locally, lists everything from Dixie Straits concerts to village bike races.

The biggest cultural event of the year has been the opening of the new Musée Matisse in Cimiez, Nice, where the artist lived and worked until his death in 1954. The re-styled museum's collections in a 17th-century Italianate villa have been augmented, and the opening is linked to exhibitions of the artist's work in Paris, New York and St Petersburg.

THE FALL IN NEW ENGLAND AND THE CANADIAN MARITIMES

A JOURNEY BY RIVER AND SEA FROM MONTREAL TO NEW YORK ABOARD THE 'BERLIN'
25 SEPTEMBER-8 OCTOBER 1992

Join the Noble Caledonia party for

a voyage through the breathtakingly beautiful scenery of Quebec, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and the coast of New England. Our journey starts in the attractive cosmopolitan city of Montreal from where we sail the St Lawrence and Saguenay Rivers and onto the Canadian Maritime Provinces for a veritable feast of enchanting scenery and historic ports. Our itinerary has been planned for the renowned 'fall' when the autumn foliage should be at its vivid best and yet the temperatures will still be pleasant and ideal for both cruising and excursions ashore.

Such a journey by any other means than a ship would indeed be difficult and the 'Berlin' is an ideal vessel for the routing. At 10,000 tons and 400 passengers, the 'Berlin' is a practical size, large enough to offer complete comfort, yet not too big to make on board life or shore excursions crowded events. She is a most attractive vessel with extremely comfortable air-conditioned cabins, all with shower and toilet, TV with central audio and video channels. Public facilities include a spacious dining room, bars, lounge, shops, hairdressers, indoor and outdoor swimming-pools, sauna, gymnasium and health centre, clinic and plenty of sun and observation deck-space with comfortable loungers.

The vessel is owned and operated by Peter Deilmann Cruises, well known for their high standards. The crew is European and the passengers a mix of European and North American.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London to Montreal via Frankfurt. Arrive in the afternoon and embark on the 'Berlin'. Moor overnight in Montreal.

DAY 2 Montreal A full day to explore Montreal an appealing mix of old and new, French and English in a truly Canadian setting. Sail during dinner along the St Lawrence to Quebec.

DAY 3 Quebec A wonderful and unique city, particularly its old quarter with its European style and French culture. Designated by UNESCO as a world heritage site.

DAY 4 Saguenay River and La Baie Ha Ha The Saguenay is the largest of Eastern Canada's fjords, an area of spectacular scenery, explore on foot or by small boat the extraordinary parkland beauty. In the afternoon the 'Berlin' will sail along the fjord.

DAY 5 At sea

DAY 6 Prince Edward Island With scenery more akin to Ireland than Canada this tranquil island is an idyllic place of gently rolling lush countryside. We will anchor off its tiny capital Charlottetown, a charming Victorian colonial style country town.

DAY 7 St Pierre Island You will have to look hard in your atlas to find this dot of an island off the Newfoundland coast. Surprisingly St Pierre is still a French territory, the last in North America.

DAY 8 Nova Scotia The island of Cape Breton at the northern end of Nova Scotia offers the visitor a feast of rugged splendour scenery. Not unlike the western highlands of Scotland, its rocky and dramatic coast is shadowed by mountains and valleys, rivers and lakes.

DAY 9 At sea

DAY 10 Maine The beauty of Mount Desert Island in the waters of Penobscot Bay defies description. The breathtakingly spectacular landscapes of mountains, forest and sea

blend to make this a truly memorable place. We will anchor in Bar Harbor, a delightful resort.

DAY 11 Boston Historic Boston — see the gardens, the old quarter, the Isabella Gardner Museum, Harvard Square and the famous battle sites of the Revolutionary War at Lexington and Concord.

DAY 12 New York Be on deck at midday to experience one of the greatest waterfronts as it slowly comes into sight. The vessel will moor overnight in New York. Afternoon and evening in New York.

DAY 13 New York Disembark after breakfast. Courtesy hotel rooms for day use with evening flight departure.

DAY 14 Arrive in London in the morning.

PRICES PER PERSON IN TWO BEDDED CABIN

Deck	Inside	Outside
C	£1395	£1795
B	£1530	£1950
A	£1750	£2100
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CHANNEL 4

6.00 **Trans World Sport** (r) (30482) 7.00 **Take 5** (74127) 7.30 **Willo the Wisp** (r) (263171) 7.35 **Sharky and George** (30780) 8.05 **Pro Stars** (r) (30598) 8.30 **Kelly, Adventures of a police dog** (25314) 9.00 **Spacecats** (751892)

9.25 **The Sword of Tipu Sultan**, Epic Indian drama (4770598)

10.00 **Talking Libraries** with critic Frank Kermode (r) (9213918)

10.45 **Dennis**, Animation (r) (6675958) 11.00 **Owl TV** (r), (Telexed) (6192) 11.30 **Flipper** (7821) 12.00 **Little Owl on the Prairie**, The trials and tribulations of a close-knit Kansas Plains family (C2022) 1.00 **Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea**, Underwater adventures (34550)

2.00 **Kontup — an African Rainforest**, The wildlife of a Cameroonian rainforest (r) (78579)

3.00 **Film: Air Force** (1943, b/w), A flag-waving tribute to the American Air Force during the second world war, focusing on the crew of a B-17 Flying Fortress who see action at Pearl Harbor. Starring John Wayne and Gail Young (reel) (66911) 1.11

5.25 **News and weather** (06991) 1.11

5.30 **American Chronicles**, Richard Dreyfuss narrates the last in the series of offbeat documentaries from David Lynch and Mark Frost, a tale of the would-be warriors who fire weapons and dress in fatigues and a profile of the boxer George Foreman (s) (82)

6.00 **Barth Tucker Man**, The further adventures of Les Hiddins in northern Australia (s) (82)

6.30 **The Cosby Show**, American domestic comedy, (Telexed) (47)


7.00 **Invisible Enemies: Will We Ever Learn?**

● CHOICE: Dr Norman Swan's thought-stirring series on the relationship between illness, destiny and disease concludes by pulling together a number of disease programmes and suggesting that the roots of epidemics, from drugs to heart failure, may be more social than medical. Sometimes Swan's argument becomes too simplistic, as when he links the incidence of lung cancer and strokes to the pervasive advertising of the tobacco and alcohol industries. But he undeniably airs the debate on how to deal with drug abuse by contrasting hard-line approaches in New York with liberal initiatives on Merseyside. Swan also shows how the Aids epidemic of the 1980s has almost uncanny parallels with the spread of syphilis in Naples at the end of the 15th century. Unfortunately no one seems to have learned the lessons. (Telexed) (s) (85)

8.00 **Euro Express**, Includes a visit to Europe's longest brothel (68555)



Tragic irony: Marilyn Monroe acts in her last film (8.35pm)



Shabby dresser, polished detective: Peter Falk (9.05pm)

Shabby dresser, polished detective: Peter Falk (9.05pm)

in Love - (55-4093)
(8956) 2.30 Film

[illegible]

INFORMATION CENTRE, DEPARTMENT TM,
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DATE: 2000-01-11 TIME: 14:00 PAGE: 1 OF 1

Musican's Musican 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 News 9.09 Olympic Sportsworld 7... 9.40
Britain 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 Seeding Stars 11.30
Letter from America 11.45 Sports Roundup Midnight News 12.05am World Business
Review 12.15 Classics with Kyr 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 In Praise of God 2.00 News 2.01 With

4:00 News 4:09 Words of Faith 4:15 Sports Roundup

6.00 Towards Bach: Johann Adam Reindken, John Scott, on the

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World Service: MW 648kHz/463m.

ملک و املاک

BBC1

- 6.35 Open University: Holograms and Noble Gases (5028623) 7.00 Maths: Shrinking Polygons (5905536)
7.25 News and weather (8158130)
7.30 Tales of a Wise King and the Devil: More Solomon and the Devil. Cartoon based on the fables of King Solomon (8136307)
7.35 Halo Spencer: Puppet fun (5078555)
8.00 Olympic Grandstand and Racing from Goodwood. Steve Rider and Desmond Lynam introduce the Olympic action from Barcelona. The line-up is: Athletics: the first heats of the men's 400m and women's 100m; Rowing: the finals of the men's coxless pairs, coxed fours, single sculls, double sculls, and the finals of the women's coxless pairs, coxed fours, double sculls; Canoeing: the men's C1 and women's K1 white-water finals. Plus highlights of last night's men's individual all-round gymnastics final, news of the latest shooting medalists and qualifiers for the last 16 of the men's table tennis singles. Racing: Julian Wilson introduces live coverage of the Vespene Maiden Stakes (2.00), Vespene Maiden Cup (2.30) and the Vespene Maiden Stakes (3.10) (6613521)
4.45 News and weather (9061440)
4.55 Regional news and weather (4341604)
5.00 Olympic Grandstand. Further coverage of the events in Barcelona. Athletics: the second heats and semi-finals of the men's 200m; the semi-finals of the women's 800m; the semi-finals and finals of the men's 100m and women's 100m; the women's marathon and the final of the women's javelin. Introduced by Steve Rider and Desmond Lynam (36795807)



Spending power: Richard Pryor is heir to a fortune (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Film: Brewster's Millions (1985). Richard Pryor and John Candy star in this manic comedy about a loser who inherits \$300 million. However, to claim his fortune he must spend \$30 million in 30 days, without giving any away or acquiring any possessions. Directed by Walter Hill. (CeeFax) (95254642)
9.45 News with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Sport and weather (199739)
10.05 Olympics Today. Desmond Lynam presents the best of the evening's action, with a round-up of the day's track and field events. Gymnastics: the women's apparatus finals: the asymmetrical bars, floor, beam and vault; Hockey: highlights of Great Britain's fourth match in Group A of the men's competition against Argentina; Judo: the men's and women's half-lightweight finals. Plus the quarter-finals of the football competition and the middle-heavyweight wrestling final (633360)
12.00 Film: Swamp Thing (1982). Louis Jourdan and Adrienne Barbeau star in this spook horror film about a scientist forced to hide in the bayou after mistaking himself for a slimy green creature. Directed by Wes Craven (54239)
1.30am Weather (8377181)

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BBC2

- 6.40 Open University: Are Four Colours Sufficient? (5013246) 7.05 Maths: Modelling Soil Control (5902449) 7.30 Geography: From version of Coal (3075826) 7.55 Images: The Crab Nebula (1795517) 8.20 The Pine Beauty (8810739) 8.45 CIM in the Workplace (4895994) 9.10 Race, Education and Society (7570642) 9.35 Customer Service (9694197) 10.00 The Tempio Malatestiano (2522371) 10.25 King Lear: Workshop (6910888) 10.50 Problems with Ions (5875178) 11.15 Beyond Famine (1678081) 11.40 Patterns of Diversity (5460888) 12.05 Swedish Science in the 18th Century (1621975) 12.30 Learning from the Box (1334826) 12.55 Industrial Democracy (1402653) 1.20 Markets and Hierarchies (6190025) 1.45 The Other Viruses (6158234) 2.10 Living Choices: Changing Places (5804815) 2.35 Mental Handicap: Given - was a Working Life (9914791) (31604)
3.00 Animation News: Stanley and the Dinosaur. (CeeFax) (7086826)
3.15 Film: War and Peace (1956) starring Henry Fonda, Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer. Handsome adaptation, stronger on battle scenes than domestic drama, of Leo Tolstoy's epic novel about the lives and loves of Russian aristocratic families during the Napoleonic wars. Directed by King Vidor. (CeeFax) (19165587)
6.35 Personal Details
● CHOICE: Are you as old as you feel or are you as old as society makes you feel? In the first of a six-part series looking at the forces that shape our identity, sociology professor Stuart Hall introduces a feature on age and its effects on our lifestyles and life concerns. Highlights include the Canadian psychologist who is ruthlessly measuring the signs of his physical deterioration and a workshop where employees divide into different age groups to voice their preoccupations. There are no startling revelations here but, as in the Seven Up documentaries, the interviews fascinate precisely because what they tell us is so recognisable. The Personal Details series was compiled from programmes originally made for the Open University, but don't let that put you off, the approach is upbeat, never dry (72246)
7.05 News with Mollie Stuart. Sport and weather (276371)
7.20 Columbus and the Age of Discovery: The Sword and the Cross. Maunio Oregon introduces the fifth of seven documentaries marking the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's landing in the Americas. Columbus sets sail on his second voyage with 17 ships and 1,200 men, their destination La Navidad. However, his twin goals, to find gold and to Christianise the natives, are to end in failure. (CeeFax) (920246)
8.10 Olympic Grandstand. Desmond Lynam introduces coverage of the day's events from Barcelona, including the heats of the women's 100m with Liz McColgan (3849648)



Focus on the Loch Ness monster: Steve Feltham (10.05pm)

- 10.05 Video Diaries: Desperately Seeking Nessie.
● CHOICE: Ingo 28-year-old Steve Feltham has to make the most of the "follow your dream" angle as he justifies selling his home and business in order to set up a vigil on the banks of Loch Ness in search of the elusive monster. Without giving too much away, scientists are likely to be underwhelmed by his results so far, yet somehow the diary manages to get filled quite entertainingly. Roy Hattersley shows up en route to pour cold water on the whole thing. "If there had been a monster, we would have seen pictures of it, we'd have seen its eggs on the shore, its children swimming", and Feltham himself has a sense of humour about his disappointments. "When it reaches the beach I'm going to saw it up and teach it a lesson," he declares of a Nessie-shaped log. There is also some fun to be had watching the monster watchers, especially the ITN news reporters who side up to him to make sure he goes straight to them rather than the Beeb should he find anything. (85051)
11.05 Film: Stardust Memories (1980, b/w). Woody Allen wrote, directed and starred in this disturbingly comic and autobiographical film about a film director who is haunted by memories of previous relationships. (CeeFax) (492246). Ends at 12.35am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (7131554)
9.25 Film: The Prince and the Pauper (1962). Routine Walt Disney version of the Mark Twain classic. Sean Connery plays the role of the Prince of Wales and a young street urchin. Directed by Don Chaffey (11497062)
11.30 The Mountain Bike Show. Magazine programme for enthusiasts of the sport. Includes action from the BMF national championships (7975)
12.00 The ITV Chart Show. Featuring Maria McKee performing her No 1 hit "Show Me Heaven" (6) (31246)
1.00 News with Timewart. Weather (7219371) 1.05 LWT News and weather (7219381)
1.10 Makita Football Championships. Ian St John introduces live coverage of the knockout tournament from Eland Road, Leeds. League champions Leeds take on German champions Stuttgart and Nottingham Forest play the Italians, Sampdoria (8436044)
5.00 ITN News with Carol Barnes. Weather (9612062) 5.05 LWT News and weather (7584913)
5.15 Disney Cartoon Time (5771449)
5.30 Haggard. Keith Barron stars in Eric Chappell's bawdy comedy series, based on the book by Michael Green about an impoverished 18th-century scoundrel. This week Haggard loses a valuable emerald ring. (Oracle) (97)
6.00 Catchphrase. Roy Walker presents the hi-tech visual game show. (Oracle) (20)
6.30 The Upper Hand. Feeble role reversal comedy starring Joe McGann, Diana Weston and Honor Blackman. Charlie impresses Caroline with his prowess as a housekeeper, but finds more than he bargained for in the bathroom (1) (72)
7.00 Film: You Only Live Twice (1967) starring Sean Connery as James Bond in one of the best 007 films, full of stirring set pieces and with a darkly humorous script by Roald Dahl. Bond has the tedious task of stopping arch criminal Blofeld (wickedly played by Donald Gilbert. (Oracle) (36610159)
9.05 Sam Saturday starring Ivan Kaye as a Jewish detective with the Metropolitan Police. A tough criminal who is dying of cancer asks for Sam's help. (Oracle) (611468)
10.05 News with Carol Barnes. Weather (591333) 10.20 LWT weather
10.25 Tarrant on TV. Chris Tarrant takes a cynical look at the world of television. He explores the way American television exposes raw human emotions to heart-wrenching effect (6) (625739)



Comic impersonations: Phil Cool as Rolf Harris (10.55pm)

- 10.55 Phil Cool. Stand-up comedy, sketches and impressions from the man of many faces (716517)
11.25 Spitting Back. Compilation of 1990 sketches with the latest spookiness. (Oracle) (76123)
11.55 Wolf. Tony (Jack Scallia) has to face up to the realities of steroid abuse when he sets out to prove the innocence of his former high school coach (511975)
1.00am The Big E. Magazine programme for young Europeans (6) (23314)
2.05 Music from the Bridge with Curtis Stigers (6) (7068840)
2.35 Rhythm 'n' Raag. Featuring British Asian rap artists. Includes Ananda, live from Streatham's Ritz Club, Drift and Mala (936550)
3.05 Indy Car Racing from Toronto (2624666)
4.30 The Hit Man and Her. Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan report on the latest club scene (6) (20024)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe (75043). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Joyce and the Wheeled Warriors (4778401) 6.25 Eureka's Castle (6937710) 6.55 Once Upon a Time. Life. Tom Hanks (5022449) 7.25 Blood, Sweat and Glory. A history of sport (6) (5901333) 7.55 Trans World Sport (5491807) 9.00 News summary (6563265) 9.15 Racing: The Morning Line (5685623)
10.00 One of the Family? Janice Sloss looks at how attitudes towards deaf people as potential foster parents are changing (65888)
10.30 Australian Rules Football. Drama as the top teams battle it out for the premiership (43246)
11.30 Quizbowl. Sports journalists from national newspapers test their knowledge. Today, the News of the World versus the Mail on Sunday (6) (5517) 12.00 Get Smart. Spoof spy series (81130)
12.30 The Beverly Hillsbillies (b/w). Vintage comedy sketches (43081)
1.00 Film: Viva Villa (1934, b/w) starring Wallace Beery and Fay Wray. Brisk and entertaining, if often inaccurate, biography of the Mexican revolutionary bandit who eventually became president. Directed by Jack Conway (43395826)
3.05 In and Out. Alison Snowden and David Fine's black comedy about life beyond the womb (6) (7673159)
3.15 Racing from Newmarket. Live coverage of the 3.20, 3.50, 4.20 and 4.50 races (81835807)
5.05 Brookside Omnibus (6). (Teletext) (6) (6044888)
6.30 The Hard Face of the Ogre. A film following Sheffield dumber Paul Nunn's attempt on the north face of the Ogre in the Karakorum Himalayas (2)
7.00 The World this Week. Includes a report on the chances of Kenya society becoming more pluralist (7081)



Spot the leopard: close-up of an elusive predator (8.00)

- 8.00 Kingdom of the Plains: The Secret Leopard.
● CHOICE: This superb wildlife film from the Survival series is well worth seeing again. Film-maker Richard Matthews and his assistant Samantha Purdy spent four and a half months following a female leopard and her cubs and the daily drama of their existence in the African bush. Considering how secretive leopards are, there are some remarkable close-ups here and some exciting hunting moments captured forever on film. Indeed we are so close at times that you can hear the leopard's teeth crunching through food. Because they have been observed so consistently, we can appreciate leopards' motives and intentions; there is a wonderful sequence where the female pounces on a young hyena, then has to guard the very heavy carcass from a watching lioness, eventually disappearing up a tree with it. Nature is of course red in tooth and claw, but the ending of the film is satisfyingly reminiscent of the soppiest Disney picture. (Teletext) (3401)
9.00 G. B. H. The final part of Alan Bleasdale's political drama (6). (Teletext) (6) (8081)
10.30 Film: Thru the Keyhole (1960, b/w). Charles Addams stars as a timid bar pianist who is drawn into danger in this stylish crime drama, directed by François Truffaut with a nod towards the Hollywood pulp thriller. In French with English subtitles (86517)
12.00 Amber Dreams
● CHOICE: This surprisingly moving documentary looks at the making of Amber Film's picture, Dream On, which will be shown on Monday. Dream On features residents of the Meadow View Estate in North Shields, scene of riots last September, and through the three main parts, told by actors, their words come to life. The real-life stories, told by women at workshops held by the Collective. The theme of a women's darts team enables the film-makers to take an oblique look at the characters' lives through their revelations to each other. Explains Amber's Kitty Fitzgerald: "We've tried to mirror the lives we see and we lead in the north-east. People will often be treading a path that appears to be disastrous, but the next minute they'll be laughing their heads off." The programme also recalls the collective's previous successes and its decision to base itself where it has. Sadly, the ending seems to indicate that the film-makers are struggling to find the money for future endeavours (72556)
12.30am Twilight Zone: I Dream of Genie (b/w). A mild-mannered clerk finds an Aladdin's lamp (9947208). Ends at 1.25

SATellite

SKY ONE

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
6.00am Danger Bay (52889) 6.30 Elephant Boy (56130) 7.00 Fun Factory (742259)
12.00 Beyond 2000 (772) 1.00am Sports: The World Cup (56130) 2.00 Big News (20739) 3.00 Monkey (76541) 4.00 Iron Horse (91178)
5.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling (83771) 6.00 T.I. Hooper (95934) 7.00 Scooby (34371) 8.00 Unsolved Mysteries (10731) 9.00 Cops (180052) 9.30 Cops (161401) 10.00 All American (5193) 11.00 The Unouchables (51197) 12.00 SkyNet

SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (4865234) 8.30 Nightline (30371) 10.30 Our World (46904) 11.00

- Dayline (26032) 11.30 Headline News and Newsnight (33468) 12.30am Those Were the Days (29536) 1.30 Holiday: Destinations (90265) 2.00 Fashion TV (47307) 3.30 Those Were the Days (27807) 4.30 Our World (3368) 5.00 Newsnight (33468) 6.30 Newsnight (33468) 7.00 Newsnight (33468) 7.30 Newsnight (33468) 8.00 Newsnight (33468) 8.30 Newsnight (33468) 9.00 Newsnight (33468) 9.30 Newsnight (33468) 10.00 Newsnight (33468) 10.30 Newsnight (33468) 11.00 Newsnight (33468) 11.30 Newsnight (33468) 12.00 Newsnight (33468) 12.30am Newsnight (33468)

SKY MOVIES+

- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites
6.00am Shark's Treasure (1975) (67831) 10.00 The Whitching of Ben Wagner (1957) (Myster) (50581) 12.00 Everyday Heroes (1990) Teachers attempt to quell chaos (5488)

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VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA
As London except 9.25am Film: Born to Run (5912772) 11.05am Denney Cartoons (972081) 1.10am Starting from Scratch (8224246) 1.40am Chequered Flag (5156662) 1.20am Cartoon Time (436130) 2.20am Film: Treasure of the Golden Horde (218456) 4.05am News (1658081) 5.05am News (1658081) 5.15am News (1658081) 5.30am News (1658081) 5.45am News (1658081) 5.55am News (1658081) 6.00am News (1658081) 6.15am News (1658081) 6.30am News (1658081) 6.45am News (1658081) 6.55am News (1658081) 7.00am News (1658081) 7.15am News (1658081) 7.30am News (1658081) 7.45am News (1658081) 7.55am News (1658081) 8.00am News (1658081) 8.15am News (1658081) 8.30am News (1658081) 8.45am News (1658081) 8.55am News (1658081) 9.00am News (1658081) 9.15am News (1658081) 9.30am News (1658081) 9.45am News (1658081) 9.55am News (1658081) 10.00am News (1658081) 10.15am News (1658081) 10.30am News (1658081) 10.45am News (1658081) 10.55am News (1658081) 11.00am News (1658081) 11.15am News (1658081) 11.30am News (1658081) 11.45am 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